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General Assembly
Security Council

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General Assembly
Fifty-ninth session
Agenda item 36
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Fifty-ninth year

Letter dated 23 November 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a summary of Israeli violations and acts of aggression against Lebanon from 5 to 20 November 2004, inclusive.

These grave violations are part of a series of persistent and provocative Israeli violations of Lebanese territory, including air, sea and land, and intervene against the principles of international law, the resolutions of international legitimacy, and the repeated calls of the United Nations for their cessation.

In view of these violations and the stepping-up of Israeli threats against Lebanon and the safety of its territory and its citizens, Lebanon relies upon the United Nations to deter and prevent Israel from indulging in such dangerous acts, which constitute a threat to international security and peace. Lebanon holds Israel fully responsible for any consequences to which those acts may lead.

In drawing your attention to the grave consequences of such acts, I request to have this letter of complaint and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 36, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Sami **Kronfol**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

04-62246 (E) 241104

Annex to the letter dated 23 November 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Israeli violations

5 November 2004

Between 0200 and 0600 hours, an Israeli gunboat in Lebanese territorial waters off Ras-Naqoura fired several flare shells and bursts of medium machine-gun fire on the open sea, and at 0830 hours fired several bursts of medium machine-gun fire.

At 1320 hours, Israeli occupation forces, positioned in the El-Radar position inside Chebaa farms, raked the surroundings of this position by medium machine-gun fire.

7 November 2004

At 1110 hours, an Israeli gunboat in Lebanese territorial waters off Ras-Naqoura fired several bursts of medium machine-gun fire on the open sea.

8 November 2004

Between 0810 and 1000 hours, an Israeli gunboat in Lebanese territorial waters off Ras-Naqoura fired several bursts of medium machine-gun fire on the open sea.

Between 1915 and 1945 hours, Israeli forces fired several flare rounds above the sea off Ras-Naqoura and above the borders facing El-Bustan village.

9 November 2004

At 0330 hours, an Israeli gunboat in Lebanese territorial waters off Ras-Naqoura fired several bursts of medium machine-gun fire on the open sea, and, between 1825 and 2300 hours, fired several flare shells and bursts of medium machine-gun fire.

10 November 2004

At 0710 hours, an Israeli gunboat in Lebanese territorial waters off Ras-Naqoura fired several bursts of medium machine-gun fire on the open sea.

14 November 2004

Between 1445 and 1835 hours, an Israeli drone aircraft violated Lebanese airspace at a medium altitude, entered from above the sea off Tyre, headed east, and circled over Sarafand, Tyre, Nabatieh and Saida.

Between 1550 and 1835 hours, an Israeli drone aircraft violated Lebanese airspace at a medium altitude, entered from above the sea off Saida, headed east, and circled over Saida.

15 November 2004

Between 0815 and 0855 hours, an Israeli drone aircraft violated Lebanese airspace at a medium altitude, entered from above the sea off Tyre, and circled over Marake and Jouwaya.

20 November 2004

Between 1740 and 1930 hours, an Israeli drone aircraft violated Lebanese airspace at a medium altitude, entered from above the sea off Jbeil, headed to the Bekaa, circled over Rayak and Baalbeck, headed to Jbeil, and then flew south.

United Nations A/59/578

General Assembly

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26 November 2004

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Fifty-ninth session
Agenda item 108
Programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005

First performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005

Report of the Secretary-General*

Summary

The present report identifies adjustments in the level of appropriations required as a result of variations in costing parameters assumed at the time of the initial appropriation, unforeseen and extraordinary items and additional mandates that are best dealt with in the context of the present report under the arrangements endorsed by the General Assembly at its thirty-second session.

The revised requirements under the expenditure sections amount to $3,351.1 million, an increase of $172.0 million vis-à-vis the appropriation level approved in June 2004 (or $190.3 million more than the initial appropriation approved in December 2003). The revised estimate under the income sections amount to $424.7 million, an increase of $9.4 million. Consequently, net requirements amount to $2,926.4 million, an increase of $162.5 million.

* The present report is being issued as scheduled to reflect the latest data available.

04-62447 (E) 061204

I. Introduction

1. The primary purpose of the first performance report, which is submitted in the first year of each biennium, is to identify adjustments required because of variations in the rates of inflation and exchange and in standards assumed in the calculation of the initial appropriations. This is in conformity with the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[1] which was endorsed by the General Assembly at its thirty-second session.

2. The performance report also takes into account the additional mandates that the General Assembly and the Security Council have approved after the appropriation of the programme budget, unforeseen and extraordinary items that could not be deferred to the second year of the biennium and decisions of policy-making organs that are best dealt with in the context of the performance report.

3. A summary of the increased net requirements, totalling $2,926.4 million, follows:

	Appropriation[a]	*Revised estimate*	*Increase*	
	Thousands of U.S. dollars		*Thousands of U.S. dollars*	*Percentage*
Expenditure	3 179 196.1	3 351 149.6	171 953.5	5.4
Income	415 340.5	424 747.3	9 406.8	2.3
Net requirements	2 763 855.6	2 926 402.3	162 546.7	5.9

[a] See resolutions 58/271 A and B and 58/295.

4. An explanation of the variations in the costing parameters assumed in the calculation of the initial appropriations is provided in parts C to F below. In addition, the following schedules and annexes provide the costing parameters used in the initial appropriation, the proposed revisions for the biennium 2004-2005 and their effect on budget sections, duty stations and major objects of expenditure:

(a) Schedule 1 contains the rates of exchange and inflation used in the initial appropriations for the biennium 2004-2005 and the rates now proposed in the present report;

(b) Schedule 2 contains information on the post adjustment multipliers used to calculate salaries for staff in the Professional and higher categories used in the initial appropriation, the actual post adjustment multipliers for 2004 promulgated by the International Civil Service Commission, and the revised rates now proposed for 2005;

(c) Schedule 3 contains the actual United Nations operational rates of exchange against the United States dollar in effect at the various duty stations for the first 11 months of 2004;

(d) Schedule 4 contains information on the cost-of-living adjustments for staff in the General Service and related categories assumed in calculating the initial appropriation for the biennium 2004-2005, the adjustments actually effected in 2004 and revised assumptions for 2005;

(e) Annex I.A contains projected changes in the budget estimates by budget section and main determining factor;

(f) Annex I.B contains estimated additional requirements by duty station and main determining factor;

(g) Annex II contains the estimated increases or decreases in requirements by budget section and main object of expenditure;

(h) Annex III contains estimated increases or decreases in requirements for jointly financed activities and inter-organizational measures by main determining factor;

(i) Annex IV contains the status of expenditures incurred under the regular budget for the biennium 2004-2005 as at 30 September 2004.

5. In its resolution 58/270 of 23 December 2003, the General Assembly reaffirmed that the Official Document System of the United Nations should cover the entire Organization and requested the Secretary-General to report on the progress made on its Secretariat-wide implementation at the fifty-ninth session of the Assembly. The addendum to the present report provides a review of the increasing availability and expansion of use of the system over the last two bienniums and presents an overview of improvements currently under way to enhance the application.

II. Expenditure sections

6. The changes required as a result of the factors mentioned above would yield an increase in expenditure of $171,953,500 for a total of $3,351,149,600 for the biennium. Details are as follows:

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Initial appropriation	3 160 860.3	General Assembly resolution 58/271 A of 23 December 2003
Additional appropriation	18 335.8	General Assembly resolution 58/295 of 18 June 2004
Programme budget appropriation:	3 179 196.1	
(a) Unforeseen and extraordinary expenses	7 445.7	In respect of peace and security, the International Court of Justice and inter-organizational security measures in accordance with resolution 58/273
(b) Decisions of policy-making organs, including special political missions	40 597.7	
(c) Variations in budgetary assumptions		
Changes in exchange rates	79 431.9	Based on United Nations operational rates of exchange
Changes in inflation assumptions	32 814.0	Based on consumer price indices, post adjustment multipliers promulgated and actual versus budgeted cost-of-living adjustments

Adjustments to standard costs	3 063.4	Based on analysis of actual payroll data, common staff costs, and staff assessment provisions
Vacancies	8 600.8	Based on realized vacancy rates
Revised total	**3 351 149.6**	

7. In the context of the current session of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General has issued, or is about to issue, revised estimates and statements of programme budget implications in response to draft resolutions considered by the Main Committees. These amounts are being handled outside the first performance report but will be revised to reflect the costing parameters approved by the Assembly in the context of its consideration of the present report and, subject to the decisions of the Assembly, will affect the level of the revised appropriation.

8. In paragraph 36 of its resolution 58/270, the General Assembly decided to defer the appropriation of budgetary provisions for the Joint Inspection Unit for 2005. Accordingly, while the present report includes recosting adjustments in respect of the approved provision for 2004 for the Joint Inspection Unit, no budgetary provision for 2005 or related recosting is included.

A. Unforeseen and extraordinary expenses (increase: $7,445,700)

9. Under the terms of General Assembly resolution 58/273 of 23 December 2003, the Secretary-General is authorized, with the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, to enter into commitments to meet unforeseen and extraordinary expenses, provided that the concurrence of the Advisory Committee shall not be necessary for such commitments, not exceeding a total of $8 million in any one year, as the Secretary-General certifies relate to the maintenance of peace and security, such commitments as the President of the International Court of Justice certifies relate to expenses occasioned by a number of situations in the Court as prescribed in paragraph 1 (b) of the resolution and such commitments, not exceeding a total of $500,000, as the Secretary-General certifies are required for inter-organizational security measures.

10. Under the provisions of the resolution, commitments in the amount of $7,445,700 have been entered into as follows:

(a) Commitments certified by the Secretary-General as relating to the maintenance of peace and security ($7,337,800);

(b) Commitments certified by the President of the International Court of Justice as relating to unforeseen expenses in respect of the Court ($103,700);

(c) Commitments for inter-organizational security measures ($4,200).

11. These expenses relate to budget sections 1, 3, 7, 24 and 31, as set out below. (All amounts are in United States dollars.)

1. **Maintenance of peace and security ($7,337,800)**

Section 1. Overall policy-making, direction and coordination ($664,800)

Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on peace and security	664 800

Section 3. Political affairs ($3,659,700)

Personal Representative of the Secretary-General on the border controversy between Guyana and Venezuela	100 600
Adviser and mediator on the territorial dispute between Equatorial Guinea and Gabon	522 800
Interdepartmental Task Force on the Sudan	318 800
Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Ethiopia and Eritrea	654 700
Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Haiti	301 500
Group of Experts relating to the Democratic Republic of the Congo	970 800
Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Latin American issues	23 500
Special Adviser on the prevention of genocide	520 100
Special Adviser to the Secretary-General for the Korean Peninsula	246 900
Total	**3 659 700**

Section 24. Human rights ($3, 013,300)

Commission of Inquiry for Côte d'Ivoire	743 300
Commission of Inquiry for Darfur	2 270 000
Total	**3 013 300**

2. **Unforeseen expenses relating to the International Court of Justice**

Section 7. International Court of Justice ($103,700)

12. Pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 1 (b) (i) of General Assembly resolution 58/273 on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for the biennium 2004-2005 and in accordance with the Statute of the International Court of Justice and General Assembly resolution 48/252 A of 26 May 1994, additional requirements arose in 2004 with respect to the designation of ad hoc judges for the following cases (in United States dollars):

Application for the case concerning Avena and other Mexican nationals (Mexico v. United States of America)	79 500
Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Bosnia and Herzegovina v. Serbia and Montenegro)	3 500
Case concerning legality of use of force (Serbia and Montenegro v. Canada)	1 500
Case concerning certain property (Liechtenstein v. Germany)	8 700
Case concerning legality of use of force (Serbia and Montenegro v. Belgium)	1 500
Case concerning legality of use of force (Serbia and Montenegro v. Italy)	1 500
Case concerning legality of use of force (Serbia and Montenegro v. Netherlands)	1 500
Case concerning legality of use of force (Serbia and Montenegro v. Portugal)	1 500
Case concerning legality of use of force (Serbia and Montenegro v. United Kingdom)	1 500
Case concerning legality of use of force (Serbia and Montenegro v. France)	1 500
Case concerning legality of use of force (Serbia and Montenegro v. Germany)	1 500
Total	**103 700**

3. Inter-organizational security measures

Section 31. Jointly financed administrative activities ($4,200)

13. In accordance with section IV of General Assembly resolution 36/235 of 18 December 1981 and resolution 58/273, commitments were entered into for inter-organizational measures consisting of the United Nations share for the cost of chartering aircraft to evacuate staff from Côte d'Ivoire in November 2004.

B. Decisions of policy-making organs (increase: $40,597,700)

14. This component covers requirements for strengthening the security and safety of United Nations operations, staff and premises, the Office of the President of the General Assembly and the holding of a Security Council meeting in Nairobi. The amounts involved are as follows (in thousands of United States dollars):

Strengthening the security and safety of United Nations operations, staff and premises	39 745.3
Office of the President of the General Assembly	815.0
Security Council meeting in Nairobi	37.4
Total	**40 597.7**

1. Strengthening the security and safety of United Nations operations, staff and premises ($39,745,300)

Section 33. Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance

15. The Secretary-General, in his report on strengthening the security and safety of United Nations operations, staff and premises (A/58/756), informed the General Assembly of measures that had been taken to strengthen the safety and security of the United Nations and also requested a first phase of urgently needed new measures consisting mainly of security infrastructure enhancements. The Secretary-General also indicated that a second phase of additional proposals intended to complete the security strengthening arrangements would be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session. In paragraph 5 of its resolution 58/295, the Assembly authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments not to exceed $38,033,200 for the financing of those infrastructure projects.

16. The second phase of additional security strengthening proposals is currently under consideration by the General Assembly. Progress in the implementation of the infrastructure projects authorized in resolution 58/295 of 18 June 2004 has been reported in detail in the context of the consideration by the Assembly of this second phase of security proposals (A/59/365 and Corr.1 and A/59/365/Add.1 and Corr.1). The updated costing parameters reflected in the present report have been applied to the resources initially authorized for the infrastructure projects, resulting in revised requirements amounting to $39,745,300. Accordingly, an amount of $39,745,300 is proposed for appropriation under section 33, Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance, for the ongoing implementation of those projects.

2. Office of the President of the General Assembly ($815 000)

Section 1. Overall policy-making, direction and coordination

17. In the annex to its resolution 58/126 of 19 December 2003, the General Assembly decided that the resources available to the Office of the President of the General Assembly in personnel and other support should be augmented from within existing resources in order to enhance the authority and role of the Assembly. At the same time, the Assembly decided that five additional posts should be made available to supplement current support, of which three should be filled on an annual basis, following consultations with the incoming President, beginning at the fifty-ninth session.

18. The General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to make the necessary arrangements for the provision of transitional office accommodation and other support to the President-elect of the General Assembly from within existing resources, beginning with the fifty-ninth session.

19. The related statement of programme budget implications issued prior to the adoption of the above-mentioned resolution (A/58/643) indicated that additional expenditures for the biennium 2004-2005 would amount to $948,000. Furthermore, it was indicated that every effort would be made to absorb those costs. Actual and projected costs relating to the requirements would be reported to the General Assembly in the context of the first budget performance report for the biennium 2004-2005.

20. With regard to the five posts decided upon by the Assembly, two vacant and available posts (one P-3 and one P-4) have been identified within the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management; therefore, no additional costs are associated with the two posts. For the remaining three positions (one D-2, one D-1 and one General Service (Other level)), it has not been possible to identify vacant posts. Accordingly, an additional appropriation in the amount of $815,000 for the biennium 2004-2005 under section 1, Overall policy-making, direction and coordination, would be required. As concerns the provision of transitional office accommodation and other support to the President-elect of the General Assembly, these would be accommodated within existing resources.

3. Security Council meeting in Nairobi ($37,400)

Section 3. Political affairs ($20,900)
Section 29D. Office of Central Support Services ($16,500)

21. In accordance with Article 28, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations, and by its resolution 1569 (2004) of 26 October 2004, the Security Council decided to meet in Nairobi on 18 and 19 November 2004 to discuss the situation in the Sudan and other peace efforts in the region with representatives of the African Union and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development.

22. In this connection, while the Government of the United States of America would provide transportation for the Security Council members as well as an additional representative and the daily subsistence allowance of the members would be borne by the respective representatives, the administrative expenses for holding the meetings in Nairobi would be borne by the Organization.

23. Although services and resources would be provided by the United Nations Office at Nairobi, additional resources are sought to augment those resources and also to provide travel and ancillary requirements for the full servicing of the Security Council meetings. Notably, it is estimated that costs amounting to $37,400 would arise under section 3, Political affairs ($20,900), and section 29D, Office of Central Support Services ($16,500).

24. Those requirements relate to the travel costs of the close protection detail for the Security Council members, additional security arrangements already put in place in Nairobi, local transportation and the travel of Secretariat officials substantively servicing the meeting.

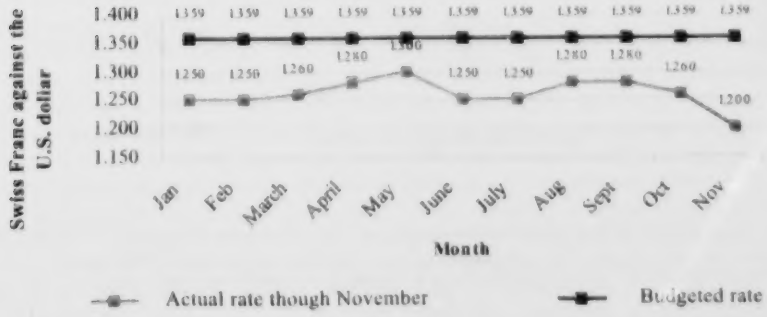
25. Accordingly, the related appropriations are requested under section 3, Political affairs ($20,900), and section 29D, Office of Central Support Services ($16,400).

C. Changes in exchange rates (increase: $79,431,900)

26. The basis for recosting can be either the average operational rates of exchange experienced thus far in the biennium (the averaging method) or the operational rates in effect at the time of recosting (the latest rate). It will be recalled that, in its report for the biennium ending 31 December 1995, the Board of Auditors had recommended that budgetary assumptions relating to operational exchange rates be based on an averaging method instead of the latest available exchange rates.[2] The Secretary-General had indicated that it would not be advisable to predetermine whether the averaging method or the latest month should be used for budget forecasting and recosting and that such a decision should be taken at the time of each recosting. This was reported to the General Assembly and agreed to by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[3] which indicated that the Secretary-General should use such rates as would allow for the lowest estimates. In the present performance report, the realized exchange rate from January to November 2004 has been applied to 2004 and the November rate has been applied to December 2004. For 2005, either the average operational rates of exchange experienced thus far in the biennium (the averaging method) or the November rate (the latest rate) has been applied for each duty station so as to allow for the lowest estimate for each duty station in respect of requirements for the related currency. Adjustments resulting from actual experience in 2005 would be implemented in the second performance report.

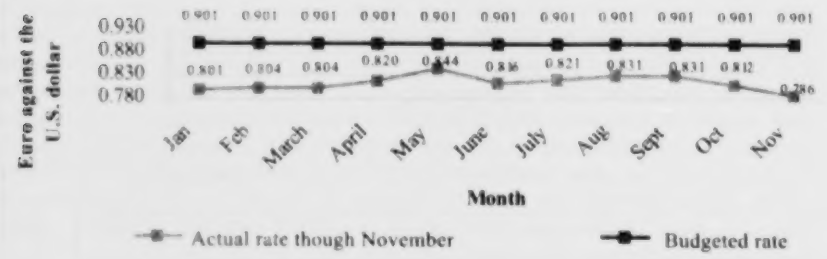
27. The increase of $79.4 million reflects a further weakening of the United States dollar in a number of operational rates experienced during the year to date as compared with those foreseen in the initial appropriation. The average rate experienced for 2004 based on January to November actual rates in respect of the Swiss franc was 1.255 francs to the dollar, compared with an assumption of 1.359 used in the initial appropriation. For 2005, the average rate of 1.255 experienced for 2004 has been used in the performance report. This change has resulted in an increased requirement of $54.9 million. Figure I reflects the experience of the Swiss franc against the dollar from January to November 2004.

Figure I
Performance of the Swiss franc against the United States dollar, 2004



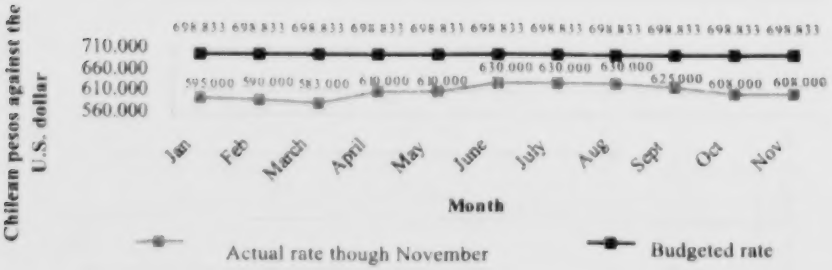
28. With respect to the euro, the realized 2004 average is 0.813 euros to the dollar, compared with an assumption of 0.901 used in the initial appropriation. For 2005, the realized 2004 average of 0.813 has been used in the performance report, which has resulted in an increase of $15.6 million. Figure 2 reflects the experience of the euro during the period from January to November 2004.

Figure 2
Performance of the euro against the United States dollar, 2004



29. With respect to the Chilean peso, the realized 2004 average is 610.583 pesos to the dollar, compared with an assumption of 698.833 used in the initial appropriation. For 2005, the realized 2004 average of 610.583 has been used in the performance report, which has resulted in an increase of $8.1 million. Figure 3 reflects the experience of the peso during the period from January to November.

Figure 3
Performance of the Chilean peso against the United States dollar, 2004



30. In addition to the adjustments required for the Swiss franc, the euro and the Chilean peso, increased requirements of $1.4 million relate to the Thai baht, while a net reduction of approximately $0.6 million applies to all other currencies combined. Details regarding operational rates at all duty stations are included in

schedules 1 and 3. The schedules provide the actual operational rates through November 2004, the rate used in the initial appropriation and the rate used in the present report. Adjustments resulting from actual experience in 2005 will be reflected in the second performance report.

D. Inflation (increase: $32,814,000)

31. Schedules 1, 2 and 4 contain revised inflation rates that affect all objects of expenditure. These are based on promulgated post adjustment multipliers and the latest available information on consumer price indices and actual versus budgeted cost-of-living adjustments.

32. With regard to non-post objects of expenditure, the revised rates mainly reflect offsetting adjustments across the majority of duty stations. However, revised rates applicable to non-post objects of expenditure in Nairobi require an adjustment of $1.1 million, including inflationary increases in respect of arrangements for the maintenance of premises. Adjustments also reflect increased costs due to inflation for utilities in New York and Vienna. Revised rates for New York require an overall adjustment of $6 million. This adjustment includes the regular budget share in the cost of malicious acts insurance covering the United Nations system staff operating in duty stations with heightened security. Such costs are budgeted and accounted for on a gross basis under section 31, Jointly financed administrative activities. The premiums under the policy have been progressively increasing over the past three years, given the need to provide adequate insurance coverage in the environment of consistent escalation of security risks and threats against the United Nations and related personnel, in particular the personnel operating in the field. While the costs for the current biennium, which increased 65 per cent compared with the previous biennium, have been approved, the renewal of the contract with the underwriters in December 2003 resulted in a further 25 per cent increase in premiums on average than that foreseen at the time of the preparation of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005. As a result, it is estimated that additional gross requirements stemming from the malicious acts insurance premium increases will amount to $3.1 million. Of this total increase, the United Nations share would amount to $1.1 million, including $0.4 million chargeable to the regular budget and $0.7 million chargeable to peacekeeping operation and tribunal budgets as appropriate. A net increase in inflation requirements of $6,983,900 relates to all non-post objects of expenditure across all duty stations.

33. Revised post adjustment multipliers used in the present report reflect upward inflationary movement at a number of duty stations, taking into account updated cost-of-living information, including place-to-place surveys carried out or implemented subsequent to the approval of the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 in December 2003. Effective 1 May 2004, the Addis Ababa post adjustment classification of multiplier 26.3 was changed to multiplier 33.7 as a result of a survey carried out in October 2003. In February 2004, a cost-of-living survey carried out in Beirut resulted in a multiplier movement from 39.0 to 43.6, to be implemented effective 1 July 2004. With respect to New York, the post adjustment classification of 53.9 was changed to 60.7 effective 1 September 2004. These revisions to post adjustment multipliers applicable to Addis Ababa, Beirut and New York, when compared with provisions for inflation foreseen at the time of the initial appropriation, result in adjustments of $7.8 million, $1 million and

$8.8 million respectively. Revised requirements amounting to $5.2 million also arise in Geneva following a 12-month review resulting in a multiplier change effective August 2004 for that duty station. Post adjustment multipliers applicable to the Professional and higher categories for all duty stations are contained in schedule 2. Total requirements due to adjustments for inflation related to Professional and higher posts across all duty stations amount to $21,259,700.

34. With regard to the General Service and related categories, the revised requirements reflect actual cost-of-living adjustments experienced in 2004 and projections for 2005 based on the latest available information. The total required adjustment of $3,637,700 largely reflects adjustments of $1.6 million for Addis Ababa and $1.7 million for Bangkok, effective 1 January 2004 and 1 April 2004 respectively, based on salary surveys.

35. The total additional appropriation arising from inflationary pressure across all objects of expenditure amounts to $32,814,000, including staff assessment requirements of $932,700, which would be offset by an equivalent increase in related income from staff assessment under income section 1.

E. Adjustments to standard costs (increase: $3,063,400)

36. Adjustments to standard costs reflect the net effect of changes in salary standard costs, common staff costs and staff assessment rates. Revisions to standard salary costs for 2004 are based on the actual averages experienced thus far in the biennium, by category and level, at each duty station. Projections for 2005 are based on the trends experienced in 2004. A net increase of $1.9 million reflects average net base salary costs that are slightly higher than had been projected in the initial appropriation.

37. Common staff costs are budgeted as a percentage of net salaries for each duty station. Expenditures under common staff costs relate to allowances and benefits, appointments, transfers and separation of staff. These relate to actual payroll experience for all duty stations during the biennium 2002-2003. Recommendations of the International Civil Service Commission with regard to the mobility and hardship scheme, separation payments, hazard pay and education grant have been absorbed within these overall adjustments, consistent with established practice in this regard. A net increase of $1.2 million relating to adjustments to the rates of common staff costs with respect to all duty stations is anticipated.

38. The adjustments to standards indicated above include staff assessment changes resulting in an increase in expenditures of $1,638,100, offset by an equivalent increase in related income from staff assessment incorporated within the changes shown under income section 1.

F. Vacancies (increase: $8,600,800)

39. In its resolution 58/270, the General Assembly decided that a vacancy rate of 5.5 per cent for staff in the Professional and higher categories should be used as a basis for the calculation of the budget for the biennium 2004-2005. The application of this rate to continuing posts, together with the 50 per cent vacancy rate applied to new posts, results in an effective budgeted rate of 6.1 per cent for the Professional

and higher categories. While the average vacancy rate for the biennium can be known only at the end of the biennium, the 2004 realized level of vacancies experienced is 5.5 per cent for staff in the Professional and higher categories. The experience in previous bienniums shows that a further reduction in actual vacancy rates is to be expected over the course of the second year of the biennium. Conservatively, adjustments to standards at this stage reflect an amount of $4.1 million for the realized 2004 vacancy rate and $4.5 million for a similar adjustment for 2005, assuming no change in the level of vacancies in 2005 and no further reduction in the realized level of vacancies during the remainder of the biennium. The adjustments to vacancies for the Professional and higher categories include staff assessment changes resulting in an increase in expenditures of $1.3 million, offset by an equivalent increase in related income from staff assessment incorporated within the changes shown under income section 1.

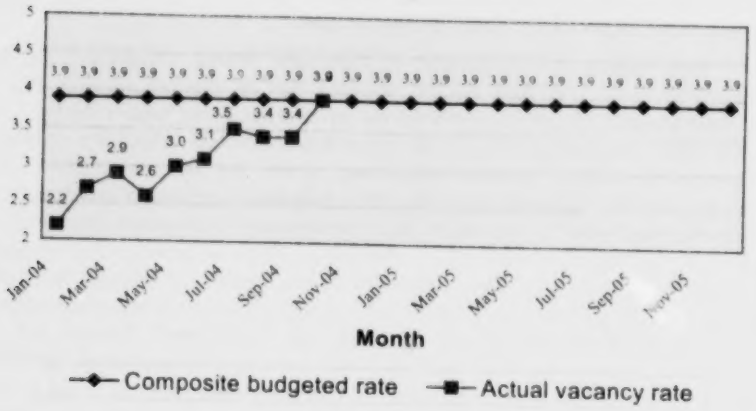
40. With regard to the General Service and related categories, the General Assembly, in its resolution 58/270, decided that an average vacancy rate of 3.8 per cent should be used as a basis for the calculation of the budget for the biennium 2004-2005. In paragraph 25 of the same resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to suspend recruitment action for new vacancies in General Service posts for the biennium 2004-2005, with the exception of safety and security personnel and editorial assistants (text processors) in language functions, and to report on the progress made and on the impact of those measures in the context of his performance reports. The application of the rate of 3.8 per cent to continuing posts, together with the 35 per cent vacancy rate applied to new posts, resulted in an effective budgeted rate of 3.9 per cent for the General Service and related categories. To date, the 2004 realized level of vacancies experienced thus far is 3.2 per cent for staff in the General Service and related categories.

41. The suspension of recruitment for new vacancies in the General Service and related categories has resulted in a gradual increase in actual vacancies experienced. The vacancy rate of 2.2 per cent realized in January 2004 has gradually increased to a rate of 3.9 per cent in October, resulting in an average rate of 3.2 per cent for the year. The experience so far of 3.2 per cent falls below the effective budgeted rate of 3.9 per cent. However, given the existing suspension of recruitment for this category of staff and the resulting trend in vacancy rates, it would be premature to adjust the overall biennial vacancy rate budgeted in respect of the General Service and related categories at this stage. Such an adjustment, if required, would be considered on the basis of information available at the time of the preparation of the second performance report for 2004-2005. Accordingly, no adjustment for vacancies in the General Service and related categories is included in the present report.

42. The gradual increase in realized monthly General Service vacancy rates is reflected in figure 4. Consultations with departments and offices have highlighted increasing difficulties in implementing planned programmes of work as a result of the suspension in General Service recruitment. Realized monthly vacancy rates will continue to be closely monitored. In setting budgeted rates for the biennium, it had been estimated that the suspension of General Service recruitment would result in a reduction of $11.9 million in 2004-2005 requirements. This adjustment was taken into account in the appropriation approved by the General Assembly. In view of the difficulties being experienced as a result of the suspension, it is expected that a report will be submitted to the General Assembly in the latter part of 2005 recommending, as appropriate, the lifting of the suspension of recruitment for posts

in the General Service and related categories for the remainder of the biennium. It is anticipated that the lifting of the suspension will alleviate the difficulties experienced in implementing individual programmes of work and, given the trend in realized General Service vacancy rates, would not result in additional resource requirements for 2004-2005, the $11.9 million reduction having been secured prior to the lifting of the suspension.

Figure 4
Vacancy rate in the General Service and related categories, 2004-2005



G. Other issues

43. Included in this section are specific issues raised in General Assembly resolutions and matters raised in accordance with procedures previously approved by the Assembly.

Expenditures related to the additional meetings of the sixtieth session of the Commission on Human Rights

44. In paragraph 4 of part IX of its resolution 58/272 of 23 December 2003, the General Assembly invited the Economic and Social Council to review its decision 2003/269 of 23 July 2003 with a view to examining the possibility that additional meetings of the Commission on Human Rights may not be required in connection with its sixtieth session. The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to provide such conference services as might consequently be required and to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the related expenditures in the context of his first performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005.

45. During the sixtieth session of the Commission on Human Rights, six additional meetings were held without any evening or weekend meetings. Related services were provided by utilizing existing capacity. Therefore, no additional financial resources are required.

Overtime

46. In paragraph 30 of its resolution 58/270, the General Assembly decided to reduce by $2 million the provision for overtime and night differential and that the relevant reductions should not be applied to security operations, and invited the Secretary-General to elaborate on resource needs for overtime and night differential in the context of his first budget performance report for 2004-2005.

47. The amount initially appropriated for overtime and night differential for 2004-2005 was $16,053,200. An additional amount of $112,500 was approved by the General Assembly in June 2004 (resolution 58/295) for overtime needs for the strengthening of security, bringing the total approved for the biennium to $16,165,700. As at 30 September 2004, expenditure for overtime and night differential amounted to $7,139,198. This experience reflects a pattern of expenditure that is slightly ahead of expected averages, largely reflecting increased overtime needs in respect of security. While it is currently too early to predict the overall adjustment that may be required for the biennium, overtime expenditure will continue to be closely monitored and reported as required in the context of the second performance report.

Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs

48. In his report entitled "Strengthening of the United Nations: an agenda for further change" (A/57/387 and Corr.1), the Secretary-General indicated that the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs* should no longer be produced by the United Nations. Accordingly, no resources were included for it in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005. However, in adopting the budget (resolution 58/270, para. 44), the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report, in the context of his first performance report, on the possibilities for absorbing the costs or mobilizing extrabudgetary resources for the preparation of the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs*.

49. In this connection, during 2004 efforts have been made to mobilize resources and to identify existing resources for the production of the *Repertory*. However, those efforts have met with little success. Following consultations, the relevant departments, with two possible exceptions, indicated their intention to continue to keep the situation under review because no resources were available for redeployment to enable work to proceed on the *Repertory*. Two departments indicated that they were examining the possibility of rearranging resources.

50. With regard to the mobilization of extrabudgetary resources, in his report on the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs* and the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council* (A/59/189), the Secretary-General noted that the Interdepartmental Committee on Charter Repertory had held two meetings, inter alia, to review the status of publication in the light of the current situation. The Interdepartmental Committee was of the view that activity related to the *Repertory of Practice* would be contingent on the mobilization of resources in the light of any future decision by the Assembly. Furthermore, the Secretary-General drew reference to paragraph 111 of the 2004 report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization,[4] in which the Committee recommended that the General Assembly review at the appropriate technical level the possibility of establishing, at its fifty-ninth session, a trust fund

for the preparation, updating and publication of the *Repertory*, which should accept solely voluntary contributions by States and private institutions and individuals.

Redeployment of posts

51. In paragraph 14 of its resolution 58/270, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, during the course of the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005, to commence, on an experimental basis, with the redeployment of posts as necessary to meet the evolving needs of the Organization in attaining its mandated programmes and activities, in accordance with a number of principles. The General Assembly decided that the experiment should be carried out in accordance with a number of principles, including the following:

- The experiment should be limited to the redeployment of up to 50 posts Organization-wide
- The experiment should not exacerbate high vacancy rates in any budget sections
- The experiment should not apply to language services
- Redeployment between sections should be carried out only after all possibilities of using resources available within budget sections that would benefit from the transfer had been exhaustively explored
- Reporting to the General Assembly should be carried out in the context of the annual budget performance reports

52. Accordingly, requests were sent to all heads of departments and offices aimed at identifying programmes with unmet staffing needs that had emerged during the course of implementation of mandated programmes and activities in 2004. At the same time, this process sought to identify programmes in which surplus capacity had developed during the course of the period over and above that needed to implement mandated activities. Of necessity, those reviews were carried out mainly at the programme level, given the need to identify surpluses or shortages of staffing resources relative to overall approved resources at the budget section level.

53. The responses to those requests showed that it is indeed possible to identify areas within individual programmes that could benefit from strengthened staffing. However, it was also evident that there were inherent difficulties in listing surplus staffing resources within a particular programme that were therefore available for redeployment to another programme. A major prerequisite for such transfers would be that the posts were not needed to implement the activities for which they were only recently approved nor to implement other priority mandated activities within the same section. No such posts have been identified in 2004 so far.

54. It should however be noted that the difficulty experienced in 2004 in this regard is due at least in part to extremely tight vacancy rates realized in the Professional and higher categories (4.9 per cent in October 2004). Given the lessons learned so far, the strategies being employed will be adjusted to reflect a more proactive approach rather than a dependency on the existence of vacant posts. To this end, strategies will focus on forecasting those posts which will become vacant due to retirement during the period concerned. The same strategy is also being applied in the review of staffing requirements in the formulation of budget proposals for 2006-2007. In that context, lists have already been transmitted to the heads of

departments and offices reflecting those posts from which an incumbent is expected to retire during the year 2005 and the biennium 2006-2007 so as to better identify future opportunities for flexibility in the management of staffing tables. The situation will continue to be reviewed regularly with the aim of utilizing the flexibility afforded to the Secretary-General in implementing mandated programmes.

Technical adjustments

Section 21. Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean

55. In paragraph V.60 of its report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005,[5] the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions recalled that it had requested the Secretary-General to expedite the completion of the review of the Field Service category and to submit his comprehensive proposals in that regard to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session (see also A/57/772, para. 80). Under the circumstances, the Committee did not recommend the reclassification of one Field Service post to the P-4 level for a financial officer in the Division of Administration of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). Although the Committee had requested that a report of the Secretary-General on the Field Service category also deal with Field Service posts of the regional commissions, the Secretary-General requested once again the reclassification of one Field Service post to the P-4 level in the Division of Administration for a finance officer, as the additional support required due to the extension of the Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) to all ECLAC offices could no longer be delayed. The Field Service post was originally approved to head the Communications Unit, but in view of changed requirements emanating from technological developments, the Field Service post is no longer required. However, there is a dire need for specialized staff in the Financial Services Section. ECLAC financial data are now centralized in Santiago, and ECLAC headquarters has overall responsibility for IMIS operations in all duty stations in which ECLAC has offices (both subregional and national). No additional costs are anticipated in the biennium 2004-2005 as a result of the reclassification of the Field Service post to the P-4 level.

Section 28. Public information

56. In line with the reform plan of the Secretary-General and the outcome of a rigorous and comprehensive review of the Department of Public Information, the transformation of the Department has resulted in the adoption of a new operating model and organizational structure. This aims at improving the Department's ability to deliver effective and targeted information programmes through more focused messages and to better identify target audiences. This included the rationalization and consolidation of nine United Nations information centres located in Western Europe into one regional hub in Brussels. The decision to close the nine centres at Athens, Bonn, Brussels, Copenhagen, Lisbon, London, Madrid, Paris and Rome, was based on the benefit expected to flow from synergies within the European Union and the high level of computer connectivity in the region. Prior to the rationalization, there had been a national information officer at each of the information centres.

57. Now, in order to ensure continuity and a seamless transition to the new operating model, it is important to incorporate those information officers into the newly established regional information centre in Brussels. National Officers had been assigned specifically to the particular national information centres at which they were engaged. To facilitate their incorporation into the regional centre, it is proposed that five National Officer posts be reflected in the staffing table as P-3 positions, as the incumbents are no longer serving only one country, but rather all of Western Europe. No additional budgetary provision is sought in connection with this technical reclassification of five National Officer posts as P-3 positions.

Section 2. General Assembly affairs and conference services

Section 8. Legal affairs

Section 29 A. Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Management

58. In paragraph 43 of its resolution 58/270, the General Assembly decided to consider the proposal of the Secretary-General regarding the transfer of the technical secretariats of the Fifth and Sixth Committees at its fifty-ninth session, with a view to taking a decision in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007. In accordance with this decision, the related appropriation adopted by the General Assembly should have reflected maintenance of the status quo and hence a reversal of the proposed transfer of related amounts from sections 8, Legal affairs ($595,500), and 29A, Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Management ($1,210,200), to section 2, General Assembly affairs and conference services ($1,805,700). However, the amounts involved were appropriated erroneously in resolution 58/271 A of 23 December 2003 under section 2. The 2004-2005 appropriation detailed in annex I.A below reflects a net zero technical adjustment to correctly reflect the appropriation consistent with the decision of the Assembly.

I. Summary

59. On the basis of the elements described in the present report, the revised level of resources requested for appropriation for the biennium 2004-2005 would be $3,351,149,600.

III. Income sections

Income section 1. Income from staff assessment

60. The changes described under the expenditure sections above and income section 3 below would result in an increase in income of $9,968,700.

Income section 2. General income

61. The decrease of $33,700 in net income under income section 2 is the net effect of a decrease of $633,000 in the income projections for the biennium 2004-2005, partially offset by an increase of $599,600 owing to recosting. The decrease in income projections is due mainly to an unanticipated reduction in rental income as a result of the movement of a tenant.

Income section 3. Services to the public

62. The decrease of $528,200 in net income results from an estimated increase of $1,591,000 in total expenditures due to the application of updated costing parameters, partially offset by an increase of $1,062,800 in total revenues resulting primarily from exchange rate fluctuations positively affecting philatelic revenues and income from services to visitors in European operations.

Summary

63. On the basis of the elements described above, the revised estimated income for the biennium 2004-2005 would be $424,747,300, as shown in the following table:

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Budget section	*Income estimates*[a]	*Projected changes*	*Revised estimates*
Income section 1	386 540.4	9 968.7	396 509.1
Income section 2	24 043.2	(33.7)	24 009.5
Income section 3	4 756.9	(528.2)	4 228.7
Total	**415 340.5**	**9 406.8**	**424 747.3**

[a] Resolutions 58/271 B and 58/295.

IV. Action requested of the General Assembly

64. The General Assembly is requested to revise the appropriation for the biennium 2004-2005 as requested in paragraph 59 above and the related income estimates as set out in paragraph 63 above.

Notes

[1] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 8* and corrigendum (A/32/8 and Corr.1).

[2] Ibid., *Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 5* (A/51/5), vol. I, and corrigendum (A/51/5/Corr.1), chap. II, para 110.

[3] Ibid., *Supplement No. 7* (A/51/7/Add.1-9), document A/51/7/Add.6, para. 5.

[4] Ibid., *Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 33* (A/59/33).

[5] Ibid., *Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (A/57/7 and Corr.1).

Schedule 1

Rates of exchange relative to the United States dollar and inflation included in the initial appropriation for the biennium 2004-2005 and in the present report, by main duty station

	Rates of exchange			*Inflation rates for non-post objects of expenditure (percentage)*			
		Performance report		*Initial appropriation*		*Performance report*	
Duty station (currency)	*Initial appropriation*	*2004*[a]	*2005*[b]	*2004*	*2005*	*2004*	*2005*
Vienna (euro)	0.901	0.813	0.813	1.3	1.6	1.8	1.7
Santiago (Chilean peso)	698.833	610.583	610.583	3.0	3.4	1.1	3.0
Addis Ababa (Ethiopian birr)	8.610	8.634	8.650	4.0	4.0	5.0	3.5
UNMOGIP (Indian rupee)	46.396	45.109	45.200	5.4	6.7	4.2	5.7
Beirut (Lebanese pound)	1 501.000	1 503.583	1 503.583	2.5	2.5	2.0	2.0
Gaza/UNRWA/UNTSO (shekel)	4.541	4.467	4.467	1.5	1.7	0	2.1
Nairobi (Kenyan shilling)	77.500	78.938	81.170	3.0	3.0	9.0	6.5
Mexico City (Mexican peso)	10.860	11.301	11.520	3.7	3.0	4.4	4.1
The Hague (euro)	0.901	0.813	0.813	1.2	1.6	1.4	1.5
Bangkok (Thai baht)	41.646	40.377	41.250	1.2	2.1	2.8	2.5
Port of Spain (Trinidad and Tobago dollar)	6.123	6.120	6.120	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
New York (U.S. dollar)	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.3	2.8	2.7	2.5
Geneva (Swiss franc)	1.359	1.255	1.255	1.1	1.7	0.9	1.1
United Nations information centres[c]	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.3	2.8	2.7	2.5

Abbreviations: UNMOGIP, United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan; UNRWA, United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East; UNTSO, United Nations Truce Supervision Organization.

[a] Average of actual rates of exchange through November 2004 (see schedule 3) with November rate used for December.

[b] Average 2004 rate of exchange used except for Addis Ababa, UNMOGIP, Nairobi, Mexico City and Bangkok, for which the November 2004 rates were used.

[c] Combined effect of changes in inflation and exchange rates.

Schedule 2

Post adjustment multipliers for 2004 and 2005 applicable to staff in the Professional and higher categories

(Base 100 = multiplier 0)

	Initial appropriation		*First performance report*		*Monthly actual multipliers for 2004*											
Duty station	*2004*	*2005*	*2004*[a]	*2005*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Vienna	136.7	136.7	146.2	150.7	147.9	147.4	147.4	144.8	141.4	145.8	145.0	143.4	143.4	146.4	150.7	150.7
Santiago	117.4	117.7	128.4	129.6	121.5	121.5	126.6	126.6	126.6	156.1	125.2	125.2	125.2	128.6	128.9	128.9
Addis Ababa	124.6	127.0	131.8	137.7	123.6	123.6	126.3	126.3	133.7	133.7	135.1	135.1	135.1	137.0	137.0	137.0
UNMOGIP	123.0	127.0	124.7	127.9	122.5	122.5	124.2	124.2	124.2	124.2	125.5	125.5	125.5	125.5	126.3	126.3
Beirut	138.2	140.5	141.4	146.6	137.5	137.5	139.0	139.0	139.0	1: 9.0	143.6	143.6	143.6	143.6	145.8	145.8
Gaza/UNRWA/ UNTSO	133.0	133.3	134.8	135.9	132.7	132.7	135.1	135.1	135.1	135.1	135.1	135.1	135.1	135.1	135.9	135.9
Nairobi	121.4	123.7	123.4	127.5	120.6	120.6	122.7	122.7	122.7	122.7	124.1	124.1	124.1	125.4	125.6	125.6
Mexico City	117.7	119.8	130.9	137.1	116.5	116.5	132.8	132.8	132.8	132.8	133.8	133.8	133.8	133.8	135.6	135.6
The Hague	135.6	135.6	145.0	149.3	146.9	146.4	146.4	143.8	140.1	144.5	143.7	142.1	142.1	145.0	149.3	149.3
Bangkok	118.9	119.1	121.8	123.4	119.5	119.5	122.2	122.2	122.2	122.2	122.2	122.2	122.2	122.2	122.6	122.6
Port of Spain	128.1	131.8	130.9	135.5	127.5	127.5	130.1	130.1	130.1	130.1	131.9	131.9	131.9	131.9	133.8	133.8
New York	154.9	157.8	156.2	161.9	153.9	153.9	153.9	153.9	153.9	153.9	153.9	153.9	160.7	160.7	160.7	160.7
Geneva	148.8	148.8	160.4	169.0	159.5	159.5	158.4	156.1	154.0	159.5	159.5	159.4	159.4	161.7	169.0	169.0
United Nations information centres	114.2	114.6	114.4	114.8	114.4	114.4	114.4	114.4	114.4	114.4	114.4	114.4	114.4	114.4	114.4	114.4

Abbreviations: UNMOGIP, United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan; UNRWA, United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East; UNTSO, United Nations Truce Supervision Organization.

[a] Average of actual post adjustment multipliers from January to November and projected multipliers for December.

Schedule 3

Rates of exchange against the United States dollar for 2004, by duty station

Duty station	*Initial appropriation*	*Performance report*		*Variance (percentage)*		*Monthly operational rates of exchange*[a]											
		2004[b]	*2005*[b]	*2004*	*2005*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	Dec
Vienna	0.901	0.813	0.813	10.82	10.82	0.801	0.804	0.804	0.820	0.844	0.816	0.821	0.831	0.831	0.812	0.786	0.786
Santiago	698.833	610.583	610.583	14.45	14.45	595.000	590.000	583.000	610.000	610.000	630.000	630.000	630.000	625.000	608.000	608.000	608.000
Addis Ababa	8.610	8.634	8.650	(0.28)	(0.46)	8.620	8.620	8.630	8.630	8.630	8.630	8.630	8.640	8.640	8.640	8.650	8.650
UNMOGIP	46.396	45.109	45.200	2.85	2.65	45.260	45.000	44.920	44.360	43.500	45.050	45.320	46.050	46.050	45.400	45.200	5.200
Beirut	1 501.000	1 503.583	1 503.583	(0.17)	(0.17)	1 501.000	1 501.000	1 501.000	1 501.000	1 501.000	1 501.000	1 514.000	1 510.000	1 510.000	1 501.000	1 501.000	1 501.000
Gaza/ UNRWA/ UNTSO	4.541	4.467	4.467	1.66	1.66	4.350	4.380	4.480	4.440	4.540	4.540	4.490	4.520	4.520	4.520	4.410	4.410
Nairobi	77.500	78.938	81.170	(1.82)	(4.52)	76.200	76.480	76.400	77.040	77.790	79.620	79.390	80.000	81.000	81.000	81.170	81.179
Mexico	10.860	11.301	11.520	(3.90)	(5.73)	11.280	10.910	11.070	11.100	11.260	11.490	11.330	11.460	11.360	11.400	11.520	11.520
The Hague	0.901	0.813	0.813	10.82	10.82	0.801	0.804	0.804	0.820	0.844	0.816	0.821	0.831	0.831	0.812	0.786	0.786
Bangkok	41.646	40.377	41.250	3.14	0.96	39.490	39.120	39.200	39.440	39.460	40.710	40.850	41.010	41.420	41.320	41.250	41.250
Port of Spain	6.123	6.120	6.120	0.05	0.05	6.120	6.120	6.120	6.120	6.120	6.120	6.120	6.120	6.120	6.120	6.120	6.120
Geneva	1.359	1.255	1.255	8.29	8.29	1.250	1.250	1.260	1.280	1.300	1.250	1.250	1.280	1.280	1.260	1.209	1.209

[a] Average of United Nations operational rates of exchange through November 2004 with November rate used for December 2004.

[b] Average 2004 rate of exchange used except for Addis Ababa, UNMOGIP, Nairobi, Mexico City and Bangkok, for which the November 2004 rates were used.

Schedule 4

General Service salaries: changes in local currency terms

(Percentage)

Duty station	*Year*	*Rates of increase in initial appropriation (Previous year = 100)*	*Adjusted rates used in performance report*	*Increases (Previous scale = 100)*
Vienna	2004	1.30	0.44	
	2005	1.60	1.70	
Santiago	2004	3.00	1.08	3.22 (1 Sept)
	2005	3.40	3.00	
Addis Ababa	2004	4.00	21.70	21.70 (1 Jan)
	2005	4.00	3.50	
UNMOGIP	2004	5.40	5.80	9.00 (1 Jun)
	2005	6.70	5.70	
Beirut	2004	2.50	2.01	3.80 (1 Sept)
	2005	2.50	2.00	
UNTSO	2004	1.50	2.10	3.60 (1 Jun)
	2005	1.70	2.10	
Nairobi	2004	3.00	-	
	2005	3.00	6.50	
Mexico	2004	3.70	1.30	
	2005	3.00	4.10	
The Hague	2004	1.20	1.25	
	2005	1.60	1.50	
Bangkok	2004	1.20	10.35	13.80 (1 Apr)
	2005	2.10	2.50	
Port of Spain	2004	5.00	10.22	5.70 (1 Aug)
	2005	5.00	5.00	
New York	2004	1.30	0.76	
	2005	2.80	2.50	
Geneva	2004	1.10	0.70	0.70 (1 Jan)
	2005	1.70	1.10	

Abbreviations: UNMOGIP, United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan; UNTSO, United Nations Truce Supervision Organization.

Annex I

Projected changes in the budget estimates for the biennium 2004-2005

A. By budget section and main determining factor

(Thousands of United States dollars)

			Projected changes							
	Expenditure section	*2004-2005 appropriation*[a]	*Unforeseen and extraordinary expenses*	*Decisions of policy-making organs*	*Rates of exchange*	*Inflation*	*Adjustment to standards*	*Vacancy*	*Total changes*	*Revised estimates*
1.	Overall policy-making, direction and coordination	58 504.4	664.8	815.0	554.1	709.8	144.7	140.9	3 029.3	61 533.7
2.	General Assembly affairs and conference services	533 574.8			17 826.5	5 887.5	286.6	1 863.1	25 863.7	559 438.5
3.	Political affairs	242 461.5	3 659.7	20.9	171.2	747.8	516.3	281.0	5 396.9	247 858.4
4.	Disarmament	18 118.4			107.6	223.2	174.0	66.2	571.0	18 689.4
5.	Peacekeeping operations	89 898.3			989.3	172.5	83.3	103.8	1 348.9	91 247.2
6.	Peaceful uses of outer space	5 484.4			552.3	(69 5)	(88.4)	25.1	419.5	5 903.9
7.	International Court of Justice	31 621.9	103.7		2 396.1	407.2	332.9	74.2	3 314.1	34 936.0
8.	Legal affairs	39 303.0			535.7	351.4	288.4	155.5	1 331.0	40 634.0
9.	Economic and social affairs	137 739.4			-	1 700.3	1 814.4	589.9	4 104.6	141 844.0
10.	Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing states	4 231.9			-	59.9	47.5	19.3	126.7	4 358.6
11.	United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development	9 344.0			(3.7)	178.3	17.1	39.3	231.0	9 575.0
12.	Trade and development	106 241.8			8 645.7	1 272.8	(1 794.8)	436.8	8 560.5	114 802.3
13.	International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO	23 472.2			1 943.0	95.0	(43.3)		1 994.7	25 466.9
14.	Environment	10 530.1			(50.2)	371.3	12.1	52.5	385.7	10 915.8
15.	Human settlements	15 536.2			(398.2)	651.3	145.8	77.7	476.6	16 012.8
16.	Crime prevention and criminal justice	9 392.8			951.6	(121.4)	(226.0)	43.2	647.4	10 040.2
17.	International drug control	20 006.9			1 938.5	(205.8)	(343.4)	79.9	1 469.2	21 476.1
18.	Economic and social development in Africa	95 672.7			(266.7)	6 182.1	(3 371.1)	408.0	2 952.3	98 625.0
19.	Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific	67 236.9			1 247.9	2 305.8	(1 195.3)	247.7	2 606.1	69 843 0
20.	Economic development in Europe	50 196.8			4 137.8	638.2	(439.2)	228.2	4 565.0	54 761.8
21.	Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean	80 884.9			6 996.0	(583.2)	738.6	295.4	7 446.8	88 331.7

Expenditure section	2004-2005 appropriation[a]	Projected changes: Unforeseen and extraordinary expenses	Projected changes: Decisions of policy-making organs	Projected changes: Rates of exchange	Projected changes: Inflation	Projected changes: Adjustment to standards	Projected changes: Vacancy	Projected changes: Total changes	Revised estimates
22. Economic and social development in Western Asia	52 713.8			(84.8)	1 196.6	808.3	195.4	2 115.5	54 829.3
23. Regular programme of technical cooperation	42 871.5								42 871.5
24. Human rights	56 794.5	3 013.3		3 655.3	850.5	(392.7)	210.2	7 336.6	64 131.1
25. Protection of and assistance to refugees	56 731.9			4 593.2	(171.6)	(19.4)	6.6	4 408.8	61 140.7
26. Palestine refugees	33 851.8			503.0	10.8	(636.0)	203.0	80.8	33 932.6
27. Humanitarian assistance	23 292.3			551.0	267.5	80.9	83.6	983.0	24 275.3
28. Public information	156 056.1			718.2	1 357.6	3 494.1	473.5	6 043.4	162 099.5
29A. Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Management	11 246.5			-	122.5	104.2	44.8	271.5	11 518.0
29B. Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts	28 147.7			-	291.2	406.0	109.8	807.0	28 954.7
29C. Office of Human Resources Management	57 277.9			-	614.2	528.9	141.3	1 284.4	58 562.3
29D. Office of Central Support Services	260 903.4		16.5	-	2 445.1	2 514.0	225.6	5 201.2	266 104.6
29E. Administration, Geneva	114 163.5			9 204.3	541.7	(2 242.6)	96.9	7 600.3	121 763.8
29F. Administration, Vienna	34 539.9			3 556.4	162.3	(655.5)	32.0	3 095.2	37 635.1
29G. Administration, Nairobi	18 860.8			(473.7)	830.8	84.2	45.4	486.7	19 347.5
30. Internal oversight	23 227.2			364.9	303.5	178.0	113.4	959.8	24 187.0
31. Jointly financed administrative activities	25 573.2	4.2		180.7	602.1	72.7	95.7	955.4	26 528.6
32. Special expenses	79 455.1			974.9	825.9			1 800.8	81 255.9
33. Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance	58 651.3		39 745.3	1 504.0	662.6			41 911.9	100 563.2
34. Staff assessment	382 319.4			5 910.0	926.2	1 638.1	1 295.9	9 770.2	392 089.6
35. Development Account	13 065.0								13 065.0
Total	**3 179 196.1**	**7 445.7**	**40 597.7**	**79 431.9**	**32 814.0**	**3 063.4**	**8 600.8**	**171 953.5**	**3 351 149.6**

[a] General Assembly resolutions 58/271 A and 58/295, with technical adjustment as explained in paragraph 58 of the present document.

B. By duty station and main determining factor

(Thousands of United States dollars)

		Projected changes							
Duty station	*2004-2005 appropriation*	*Unforeseen and extraordinary expenses*	*Decisions of policy-making organs*	*Rates of exchange*	*Inflation*	*Adjustment to standards*	*Vacancy*	*Total changes*	*Revised estimates*
New York	1 646 530.7	4 328.7	16 190.6		14 866.4	15 010.6	4 212.2	54 608.5	1 701 139.2
Geneva	742 857.4	3 013.3	17 638.5	54 940.1	5 588.3	(8 129.9)	1 951.6	75 001.9	817 859.3
Vienna	133 596.3	-	-	13 005.0	(458.2)	(2 313.5)	360.4	10 593.7	144 190.0
Santiago	81 272.6	-	206.2	8 142.3	(1 736.2)	1 310.3	269.6	8 192.2	89 464.8
Addis Ababa	121 795.7	-	2 241.0	(292.8)	6 522.5	(3 405.5)	466.3	5 531.5	127 327.2
Beirut	66 453.9	-	-	(90.8)	1 227.0	814.2	236.8	2 187.2	68 641.1
Nairobi	67 506.9	-	3 509.9	(1 573.2)	2 631.4	534.5	257.3	5 359.9	72 866.8
Bangkok	88 274.9	-	811.5	1 397.3	2 667.7	(1 381.0)	293.9	3 789.4	92 064.3
Other duty stations	230 907.7	103.7	-	3 904.0	1 505.1	623.7	552.7	6 689.2	237 596.9
Total	**3 179 196.1**	**7 445.7**	**40 597.7**	**79 431.9**	**32 814.0**	**3 063.4**	**8 600.8**	**171 953.5**	**3 351 149.6**

Annex II

Estimated increases or decreases in requirements for the biennium 2004-2005, by budget section and main object of expenditure

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Expenditure sections		*Posts and other personnel costs*	*Travel*	*Printing*	*Other contractual services*	*General operating expenses*	*Supplies and materials, furniture and equipment*	*Other*	*Total increase (decrease)*
1.	Overall policy-making, direction and coordination	2 435.2	358.8	0.5	52.7	47.5	29.7	104.9	3 029.3
2.	General Assembly affairs and conference services	21 946.1	8.0	0.9	265.9	229.2	489.8	2 923.8	25 863.7
3.	Political affairs	4 111.9	1 043.8	0.8	6.1	182.8	51.5	-	5 396.9
4.	Disarmament	628.9	3.7	-	0.2	3.3	3.7	(68.8)	571.0
5.	Peacekeeping operations	1 230.0	41.1	-	-	56.1	21.5	0.2	1 348.9
6.	Peaceful uses of outer space	332.4	1.4	5.0	2.8	6.8	5.9	65.2	419.5
7.	International Court of Justice	2 792.0	0.9	62.3	40.5	321.8	96.6	-	3 314.1
8.	Legal affairs	1 208.9	35.8	30.6	13.5	15.1	22.1	5.0	1 331.0
9.	Economic and social affairs	3 968.9	69.2	8.2	4.3	32.0	13.4	8.6	4 104.6
10.	Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States	122.6	1.9	0.6	-	1.1	0.5	-	126.7
11.	United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development	219.4	4.9	2.8	1.7	1.6	0.6	-	231.0
12.	Trade and development	7 883.4	19.9	33.8	-	231.1	208.7	183.6	8 560.5
13.	International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 994.7	1 994.7
14.	Environment	369.1	3.0	0.2	-	9.2	4.2	-	385.7
15.	Human settlements	444.7	3.6	2.7	0.3	17.5	7.8	-	476.6
16.	Crime prevention and criminal justice	601.8	4.7	13.5	7.2	12.9	7.3	-	647.4
17.	International drug control	1 255.6	20.5	52.4	48.0	43.1	49.6	-	1 469.2
18.	Economic and social development in Africa	3 106.1	21.6	3.3	12.0	20.9	33.1	(244.7)	2 952.3
19.	Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific	2 355.1	15.6	7.0	13.1	123.6	87.3	4.4	2 606.1
20.	Economic development in Europe	4 373.7	7.8	13.2	10.8	8.4	50.8	100.3	4 565.0
21.	Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean	6 948.7	19.4	(5.0)	(19.5)	436.4	66.8	-	7 446.8
22.	Economic and social development in Western Asia	2 159.8	5.4	(0.5)	(7.7)	(27.1)	(13.7)	(0.7)	2 115.5
24.	Human rights	5 603.4	1 104.5	4.6	50.1	284.6	280.5	8.9	7 336.6

Expenditure sections		*Posts and other personnel costs*	*Travel*	*Printing*	*Other contractual services*	*General operating expenses*	*Supplies and materials, furniture and equipment*	*Other*	*Total increase (decrease)*
25.	Protection of and assistance to refugees	88.0	-	-	-	-	-	4 320.8	4 408.8
26.	Palestine refugees	80.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	80.8
27.	Humanitarian assistance	853.4	13.4	2.2	18.3	30.5	10.8	54.4	983.0
28.	Public information	5 591.1	18.7	15.5	208.7	116.6	86.2	6.6	6 043.4
29A.	Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Management	267.2	0.6	-	-	2.4	1.3	-	271.5
29B.	Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts	792.8	0.3	-	7.1	4.5	2.3	-	807.0
29C.	Office of Human Resources Management	1 024.8	5.5	0.6	227.1	10.6	15.8	-	1 284.4
29D.	Office of Central Support Services	3 217.2	25.4	1.7	240.4	1 506.5	190.4	19.6	5 201.2
29E.	Administration, Geneva	4 724.1	0.6	-	343.8	1 888.5	412.0	231.3	7 600.3
29F.	Administration, Vienna	1 124.2	0.3	-	75.5	988.1	167.0	740.1	3 095.2
29G.	Administration, Nairobi	(18.0)	0.3	-	9.5	467.2	27.7	-	486.7
30.	Internal oversight	934.2	9.5	-	0.7	7.0	8.4	-	959.8
31.	Jointly financed administrative activities	-	-	-	-	-	-	955.4	955.4
32.	Special expenses	1 674.9	-	-	-	125.9	-	-	1 800.8
33.	Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance	-	-	-	-	-	-	41 911.9	41 911.9
34.	Staff assessment	9 770.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	9 770.2
	Total	**104 222.6**	**2 870.1**	**256.9**	**1 633.1**	**7 205.7**	**2 439.6**	**53 325.5**	**171 953.5**

Annex III

Estimated increases or decreases in requirements for jointly financed activities and inter-organizational security measures for the biennium 2004-2005, by main determining factor

(Thousands of United States dollars)

		Projected changes							
	2004-2005 appropriation	*Unforeseen and extraordinary*	*Decisions of policy-making organs*	*Rates of exchange*	*Inflation*	*Standards*	*Vacancy/ correction factor*	*Total changes*	*Revised estimates*
International Civil Service Commission	14 724.1	-	-	-	158.8	141.0	(6.1)	293.7	15 017.8
Inter-organizational security measures	86 375.8	20.0	-	-	3 715.7	179.8	(89.7)	3 825.8	90 201.6
Chief Executives Board	4 095.0	-	-	178.1	56.8	(18.9)	3.7	219.7	4 314.7
Joint Inspection Unit	4 900.8	-	-	366.5	7.8	(94.2)	8.3	288.4	5 189.2
Total	**110 095.7**	**20.0**	**-**	**544.6**	**3 939.1**	**207.3**	**(83.8)**	**4 627.6**	**114 723.3**

Annex IV

Expenditures incurred under the regular budget for the biennium 2004-2005 as at 30 September 2004

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Appropriation and commitment authority		3 217 229.3
Unliquidated obligations	116 497.0	
Disbursements	1 176 072.0	
Total expenditures		**1 292 569.0**
Uncommitted balance		**1 924 660.3**

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General Assembly

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Fifty-ninth session
Item 108 of the agenda
Programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005

First performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005

Report of the Secretary-General*

Addendum

Implementation of the United Nations Official Document System

Summary

The General Assembly, in its resolution 58/270, reaffirmed that the Official Document System of the United Nations should cover the entire Organization and requested the Secretary-General to report on the progress made in its Secretariat-wide implementation to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session. The present report provides a review of the increasing availability and expansion of system use over the past two bienniums. In addition, the report presents an overview of improvements currently under way to enhance application.

* The present report is being issued as scheduled to reflect the latest data available.

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I. Introduction

1. By its resolution 58/270 of 23 December 2003, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to pursue vigorous implementation of the Official Document System (ODS) to cover the entire Organization, including all regional commissions and the United Nations Office at Nairobi, and to report on the progress made. This report contains a review of the implementation and use of ODS at Headquarters and at the offices away from Headquarters.

II. Background and general considerations

2. The Information Technology Services Division of the Office of Central Support Services completed the re-engineering of the Optical Disk System in September 2001, and started the production operations of the re-engineered and renamed ODS based on the new system platform.

3. Using the advantages provided by the new system standards, the Information Technology Services Division incorporated many improvements into the new ODS. The most essential improvement is a multilingual search function implemented in February 2002, which has enabled users to search documents on ODS in any of six official languages of the Organization, endowing the application with equal treatment of the languages. By its design and purpose, ODS is a global system encompassing all main offices of the Secretariat, allowing those offices full access for document loading and retrieval.

4. Direct access to ODS from web sites was implemented in July 2002, enabling the United Nations web site (http://www.un.org) and other authorized United Nations-related web sites to link to documents directly on ODS, eliminating the need to physically copy documents onto authorized web sites. This direct-access function has significantly facilitated access to official documents in the six official languages. Web-author offices have been mandated to use the ODS direct access function on authorized United Nations web sites. As at the end of June 2004, the ODS function was being used by approximately 110 United Nations-related web sites around the world.

5. The Division is also making steady progress in implementing free access to ODS, which could then be accessed worldwide free of charge through the Internet. The new system infrastructure is being implemented, and new servers were installed and configured for that purpose during the second and third quarters of 2004. The Dag Hammarskjöld Library of the Department of Public Information has arranged for users to be able to access all full-text documents in all official languages on ODS through direct links on UNBISnet (http://unbisnet.un.org), the Library catalogue. (By the end of 2003, it had been accessed some 980,000 times.) This free service is available worldwide. By the end of 2004 all other links will be available for free access to the system database.

6. The Department of Public Information also provides direct links to General Assembly and Security Council documents in all official languages through the General Assembly and Security Council pages on the United Nations web site. Furthermore, the Department of Public Information provides title information on those documents in all official languages on its web site.

III. Implementation of the Official Document System at Headquarters

7. Since 1992, when ODS production operations began under the then Optical Disk System, the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management and the Dag Hammarskjöld Library have been loading onto the system official documentation and indexing information in the six official languages. Initially this process was cumbersome and labour intensive. One of the crucial improvements resulting from the ODS re-engineering was the development of a new document loading server that loads documents onto ODS in a highly automated manner with improved performance and reliability. Such servers were installed in the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management and the Dag Hammarskjöld Library in 2001, replacing the older document loading facility. The new loading server allows the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management and the Dag Hammarskjöld Library to verify availability of a document on ODS soon after the loading process is completed, thereby ensuring the simultaneous availability of documents in all six official languages.

8. Since ODS became operational, the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management has played a central role in facilitating the timely loading of new documents at Headquarters. For this purpose, its Electronic Documents Registration, Information and Tracking System (e-Drits) has a provision to allow ODS to share the indexing information required to automate the process of archiving documents at Headquarters. E-Drits provides the initial indexing information required for ODS after text processing has been completed. After a document is finalized in a text processing unit, it is then sent for archiving on ODS, based on the indexing information obtained from e-Drits. When a document is released in all official languages, its status is relayed to ODS, making the document available to the public in all official languages of the United Nations. The Department for General Assembly and Conference Management also performs quality assurance on documents at Headquarters and liaises with offices away from Headquarters on queries related to the quality of documents posted by those offices. New document loading servers standardized at Headquarters and offices away from Headquarters have made these processes more transparent.

9. Through its retrospective digitization programme, the Dag Hammarskjöld Library is gradually digitizing documentation issued prior to 1993 for loading onto ODS. The documents of up through the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly have already been digitized and loaded, and work is in progress on the 1985-1992 Security Council series. This work is expected to be completed in early 2005. The Dag Hammarskjöld Library has also completed the digitization of documentation of other areas of United Nations activities, such as of Administrative Tribunal judgements and the Committee on Palestine.

IV. Implementation of the Official Document System in offices away from Headquarters

10. Following the successful implementation of new document loading servers at Headquarters, the Information Technology Services Division initiated in 2001 their implementation at offices away from Headquarters. The new document loading

server has made it relatively easier to start the process of loading documents onto ODS. Using the new facility, documents loaded directly by offices away from Headquarters were automatically posted on ODS, making them available to users worldwide.

11. The United Nations Office at Geneva has been serving as an ODS mirror site since the start of ODS production operations in 1992. At that time no Internet service was available yet, and the full ODS system was implemented at the United Nations Office at Geneva, serving the user community in Geneva and the rest of Europe. The ODS database in New York was synchronized with that of Geneva, so the users were able to access all documents entered by both Headquarters and the United Nations Office at Geneva. The Geneva office utilized ODS at its full capacity, entering a significant amount of documents in all six official languages. This mirror site arrangement was carried over even after ODS became accessible from the Internet in 1996. In 2001, a new document loading server was installed at Geneva, streamlining the document loading process. As a partner of the United Nations Bibliographic Information System, the United Nations Office at Geneva Library contributes indexing data to the Dag Hammarskjöld Library database for loading onto ODS.

12. The United Nations Office at Vienna started loading its documents onto ODS in January 1997. Currently, the Office loads parliamentary documents of the United Nations Office at Vienna, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization on a daily basis, as soon as they are released for distribution. The database is replicated every 20 minutes by Headquarters, and uploaded documents are normally available within 40 to 60 minutes. ODS is used daily by a wide variety of staff from all Vienna International Centre-based organizations and permanent missions. In addition, the ability to view or download documents increases efficiency in referencing (e-referencing is directly linked to ODS) and the translation of documents by the Vienna Conference Services Division, including remote translation. This saves both time and resources, since documents are no longer shipped by pouch to or from Vienna.

13. The United Nations Office at Nairobi installed the ODS document loading server in March 2004. Subsequently, the United Nations Office at Nairobi Division of Conference Services began loading onto ODS documents processed at Nairobi. Since then, the Division of Conference Services has managed to upload a substantial amount of documentation (in Word and PDF). As part of future plans, a scanner that will enable the Division of Conference Services to upload most meeting documents of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for the period from 1973-1980, as well as environmental convention documents, will be installed by the end of 2004. The Dag Hammarskjöld Library collaborates with the United Nations Office at Nairobi to ensure that the indexing metadata are prepared for loading UNEP documents.

14. The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) initiated action to implement ODS in July 1998, after its document processing units had been trained by the Information Technology Services Division. The ECA Library played a pivotal role in that process by issuing ODS user-identification cards to ECA staff and training potential users. Due to technical difficulties, ODS implementation at ECA was temporarily stopped at that time and was resumed in June 2003 with the loading of some of its parliamentary documents produced in 2003 as part of a pilot project.

Steps are now being taken towards full-scale implementation of document loading onto ODS. That is being done through the implementation of the document management project, which incorporates ODS at ECA. The project aims at eliminating the main problems that have previously prevented ECA from actively contributing to ODS.

15. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) started loading documents onto ODS in collaboration with the Dag Hammarskjöld Library in December 2003 in English only. Documents have been finalized on ESCAP premises and have been sent for loading to the Dag Hammarskjöld Library as e-mail attachments. In August 2004, the Information Technology Services Division completed installation of the new servers (primary and back-up) at ESCAP, and since then ESCAP has been loading its documents onto ODS directly. At present, the ESCAP staff is undergoing ODS training.

16. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) started loading documents onto ODS in January 2003 following ECLAC staff ODS training. As part of its digitization project, the ECLAC Library generates PDF files for documents not issued electronically, in accordance with the editorial policy of the Commission regarding its official languages. The Library is loading onto the system ECLAC documents published from 1989 onward.

17. As part of ODS implementation, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) began in October 1999 indexing and scanning its documents in Arabic and English for the period from 1974 onward for loading onto the system. It is expected that the scanning and indexing project will be completed by the end of 2004, and that from then on current documents of the Commission will be loaded on a regular basis. It is also expected that the Conference Services Section of ESCWA will soon be able to provide electronic copies of documents to eliminate time spent scanning them. Measures for searching the text of documents without rescanning are being considered. An ODS link will be established on the ESCWA web page, as well as in the ESCWA Library catalogue, to provide to Internet users access to ESCWA documents.

V. Future considerations

18. In summary, only the United Nations Offices at Geneva and Vienna and ESCWA loaded documents onto ODS in 2002, while no documents were loaded onto the system at other main duty stations. Since June 2004 all offices away from Headquarters have been loading their documents, including ECA on a pilot basis and ESCAP through the Dag Hammarskjöld Library. This reflects the progress made in implementing ODS over the past two years.

19. In the fourth quarter of 2004, the Information Technology Services Division will ship a new, more powerful and reliable document loading server to every office away from Headquarters to replace the current server. This should facilitate document loading and improve the quality and the reliability of the loading process at offices away from Headquarters.

20. Documents prepared by text processing units at Headquarters are sent to ODS for archiving and are simultaneously sent electronically to the Publishing Section of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management for printing and

distribution. In that context, the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management has begun to move towards "printing on demand" by printing the PDF versions directly from ODS. This arrangement will ensure that a printed copy mirrors the version on ODS and that future reprints will be the same. When fully implemented, printing on demand will save storage space previously used for storing large quantities of stock copies. This arrangement will also permit dual reproduction at different duty stations, substantially improving document availability and saving both time and resources, since documents will no longer need to be shipped to other locations.

21. A major concern in implementing free access to ODS is ensuring the parity of all language versions of documents posted by offices away from Headquarters. The majority of documents archived by offices away from Headquarters are available only in the working languages of the duty stations or specific intergovernmental organs. While this is consistent with the language policy of those organs, arrangements have yet to be worked out within ODS, as a global system, to clearly reflect that policy.

22. The Dag Hammarskjöld Library will continue to provide the indexing metadata needed for ODS document retrieval. The multilingual UNBIS Thesaurus will continue to play an important role in providing support for multilingual search capability in document subject searching. The Dag Hammarskjöld Library will continue to work on loading major pre-1993 document series onto ODS. In addition, through the work of the Steering Committee for the Modernization and Integrated Management of United Nations Libraries, the United Nations libraries at Headquarters and other main locations will continue to focus their attention on issues such as the elimination of gaps in series and languages and on quality control by fostering a dialogue among libraries, document-producing offices and the Information Technology Services Division.

23. Users will be able to directly access documents on ODS free of charge from the United Nations web site. The web site Documentation Centre (http://www.un.org/documents) is being upgraded to include those links.

VI. Conclusions and recommendations

24. **The Secretariat is committed to the vigorous implementation and improved functioning of ODS. Significant progress has been made in the past two years in this regard. Efforts will continue to enhance the operation. It is expected that by the end of 2004, free ODS access will be available to the general public, and all main offices will be loading documents onto the system from their premises in a production operation mode.**

25. **The General Assembly may wish to take note of the present report.**

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Advancement of women

Report of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

Report of the Secretary-General on the financial situation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

Future operations of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women; programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.26

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) (see A/59/560), the report of the Secretary-General on the financial situation of INSTRAW (A/59/433) and the statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.26, concerning the future operation of INSTRAW (A/C.5/59/16).

Overall situation and future operation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

2. The report of INSTRAW (A/59/560) is submitted to the General Assembly in accordance with paragraph 7 of its resolution 57/311 of 18 June 2003, in which the Assembly requested the Institute to report to it, one year after the appointment of a Director, on its work programme and on the implementation of the

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recommendations contained in the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services. The report of the Secretary-General (A/59/433) is submitted in response to the request of the Fifth Committee (A/58/649, para. 3) that the Secretary-General report to the Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the overall financial situation of the Institute.

3. The Advisory Committee met with the new Director of INSTRAW in October 2004, close to one year after her appointment on 1 December 2003. It was informed that the new team had analysed the underlying causes of the chronic financial crises faced by the Institute and concluded that one of the factors had been the lack of trust of the donor community. This was further exacerbated by the fact that the post of Director of the Institute had been vacant for a period of two years prior to the appointment of the current incumbent. It was therefore essential to rebuild trust, and the work programme of the Institute had been designed to achieve this goal. The Director indicated that she was confident that trust could be restored.

4. In its strategic framework, INSTRAW has outlined its four main areas of work, namely, research, information and communication, capacity-building and training, and institutional development. In the area of institutional development, INSTRAW intends to develop results-based management processes that optimize the use of resources with transparency and accountability. Other objectives include the development of new initiatives for resource mobilization, exploration of new funding sources, strengthening of the working relationship with the Executive Board and working more closely with partners and stakeholders.

5. As shown in paragraph 8 of document A/59/560, the indicators of achievement in the area of institutional development are: funding from the regular budget for the core operations of INSTRAW (indicator (a) (i)); and an increase in voluntary funding by 50 per cent in 2005 (indicator (a) (ii)). In the opinion of the Advisory Committee, these indicators of achievement raise a number of concerns. The General Assembly, in resolution 58/244 of 23 December 2003, has stressed the critical importance of voluntary financial contributions by Member States to the United Nations Trust Fund for the Institute to enable it to carry out its mandate. The statute of INSTRAW stipulates that the Institute shall be funded by voluntary contributions by States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, foundations, including the United Nations Foundation, private sources and other sources. With regard to indicator (a) (ii), given that the total extrabudgetary funds raised as at October 2004 amounted to $176,713, an increase of 50 per cent would still fall far short of the current core annual requirement of approximately $1.1 million for the operation of the Institute. **The Advisory Committee points out that funding of the core activities of the Institute from the regular budget since 1999 has been an extraordinary, temporary measure, intended to allow the Institute to become financially viable. It has been incumbent upon the Institute to develop a realistic strategy for achieving financial autonomy. In the opinion of the Committee, to continue to provide support on an extraordinary basis is not sound. The Committee urges that consideration be given to a more long-term, viable solution.**

6. The proposed budget for 2005 has been presented in three main categories. The first category of substantive strategic areas encompasses activities relating to research, information and communication, and capacity-building and training. The estimated resource requirement for these substantive strategic areas is $693,000,

representing 58.5 per cent of the total budget. This amount includes salaries and other staff costs for one P-3, two P-2 and two General Service staff, as well as contractual services, meetings, travel of staff, supplies, materials and consultancies. The second category of the budget concerns institutional development, which includes such activities as oversight, management, leadership and fund-raising. The estimated resource requirements for this area are $237,000, representing 20 per cent of the total budget, including the salary of the Director of the Institute at the D-2 level, official travel, meetings and consultancies. The resource requirements for the third category, concerning administration and support services, amount to $209,000, or 17.5 per cent of the total budget. This includes $138,000 for one P-2 and three General Service staff, as well as $70,700 for general operating expenses. The balance of the provision (4 per cent of the budget) represents the costs of programme support incurred in the implementation of the activities funded from the trust fund.

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.26

7. Draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.26 on the future operation of INSTRAW, by which the General Assembly would decide to provide its full support to the current efforts to revitalize INSTRAW and, in that regard, to ensure that the Institute would be able to continue functioning for a period of at least one year (from 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2005), was adopted by the Third Committee at its 37th meeting, on 4 November 2004. The Advisory Committee notes that a statement of the resulting programme budget implications (A/C.3/59/L.36) was submitted to the Third Committee in connection with its consideration of the draft resolution.

8. The statement of the Secretary-General on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.26 (A/C.5/59/16) indicates that the resource requirements for 2005 are estimated at $1,183,700. The balance of the United Nations Trust Fund for the Institute as at 31 December 2004 is currently projected to be approximately $91,300. Additional pledges of $12,900 to the Trust Fund were made by four countries during the Pledging Conference for Development Activities, held in New York on 11 November 2004. These funds would enable the Institute to continue its operations until January 2005. It is not possible at the present stage to determine whether the Institute would have adequate resources from voluntary contributions to function beyond 31 January 2005. The Secretary-General estimates that, in the event that insufficient voluntary contributions are received prior to 31 January 2005, the continued operation of INSTRAW until 31 December 2005, as called for in the draft resolution, would give rise to additional requirements of $1,092,400 under section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005. The Advisory Committee understands that, should additional voluntary funds become available, they would be used to offset the amount of the regular budgetary requirement.

9. **Accordingly, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.26, an additional provision of up to $1,092,400 would arise under section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005. The additional requirements would need to be considered for appropriation in the context of the review of the consolidated statement of programme budget implications and revised estimates, provided for in the**

procedures established by the Assembly in its resolutions 41/213 of 19 December 1986 and 42/211 of 21 December 1987 for the use and operation of the contingency fund, which is to be undertaken by the General Assembly during the main part of its fifty-ninth session.[1]

[1] An amount of $234,700 was set aside in the contingency fund for the biennium 2004-2005 pursuant to the decision of the Fifth Committee (A/58/649, para. 3). This amount remains unutilized.

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Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Fifty-ninth year

Letter dated 24 November 2004 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 24 November 2004, addressed to you by Reşat Çağlar, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 29, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Aitay **Cengizer**
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 24 November 2004 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the allegations of the Greek Cypriot representative in New York contained in his statement made to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) at the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly on 27 October 2004, on the agenda item entitled "Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects", and to convey to you our views on the matter.

More than six months have elapsed since the separate simultaneous referendums held in Cyprus on your settlement plan on 24 April 2004, in which the Greek Cypriot side resoundingly voted against settlement and sharing the benefits of European Union membership with Turkish Cypriots, who, on the other hand, overwhelmingly voted for compromise and a common future with the Greek Cypriots in the European Union. As you clearly underlined in your subsequent report on your mission of good offices submitted to the Security Council, dated 28 May 2004, "What was rejected [by the Greek Cypriots] was the solution itself rather than a mere blueprint" (S/2004/437, para. 83).

In paragraph 92 of the same report, you also concluded that "in the aftermath of the watershed vote of 24 April, I believe that a fundamental reassessment of the full range of United Nations peace activities in Cyprus is timely. The reassessment should include the four-decade-old search for peace in Cyprus, and consider how best to address the problem in the future. I accordingly intend to conduct a review, to be completed within three months, of UNFICYP's mandate, force levels and concept of operations, in the light of the developments on the ground, the positions of the parties, and any views of the Security Council might have."

Furthermore, on 22 October 2004, the Security Council, in its resolution 1568 (2004), endorsed your recommendations in this regard contained in your report on the United Nations operation in Cyprus (S/2004/756) and extended the mandate of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) for a further period of six months. Notwithstanding a 30 per cent reduction in the force level of UNFICYP and its amended concept of operations, the review has fallen short of updating the mandate of the Force in line with the drastically changed circumstances on the ground. We believe, however, that this issue can still be dealt with within the framework of the further review to be conducted prior to June 2006. The Greek Cypriot side should not be allowed to continue rejecting a settlement on the island while expecting everything else to remain constant.

I would like, once again, to underline that UNFICYP was deployed on the island in 1964 in the face of the Greek Cypriot atrocities against the Turkish Cypriot people and not as a result of the legitimate Turkish intervention of 1974. His devious attempt to draw a correlation between the existence and number of UNFICYP personnel on the island and that of the Turkish forces is insincere and hardly convincing. In this context, your assessment, which was also stated in the latest Security Council resolution on UNFICYP, that "the security situation on the island has become increasingly benign over the last few years and that a recurrence of fighting in Cyprus is increasingly unlikely" (resolution 1568 (2004), fifth

preambular paragraph), is an accurate assessment and is also supported by the Turkish Cypriot side. In view of this widely shared assessment of the prevailing conditions on the island, the deviously facile and contrived arguments of the Greek Cypriot representative seem all the more ridiculous.

Furthermore, the Greek Cypriot representative also endeavours to arrogate responsibilities to UNFICYP (i.e., a role in finding a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus issue) which fall exclusively within the scope of your good-offices mission. The aim here is clearly to undermine the role of your mission of good offices vis-à-vis the efforts to find a settlement in Cyprus and in doing so to downplay the importance of the results of the referendums and the Greek Cypriot side's rejection of the settlement plan.

As for the Greek Cypriot representative's utterances pertaining to a political settlement in Cyprus, your statement in your report on your mission of good offices (S/2004/437, para. 86) that "if the Greek Cypriots are ready to share power and prosperity with the Turkish Cypriots in a federal structure based on political equality, this needs to be demonstrated, not just by words, but by action" needs no further elaboration. In a similar vein, in the summary of the same report you also stated that "if they [the Greek Cypriots] remain willing to resolve the Cyprus problem through a bicommunal, bizonal federation, this needs to be demonstrated. Lingering Greek Cypriot concerns about security and implementation of the plan need to be articulated with clarity and finality." To this date, this call has not been properly responded to by the Greek Cypriot leadership. The failure and the unwillingness of the Greek Cypriot side to do so clearly demonstrates that it is not, and has never been, interested in a mutually acceptable solution in Cyprus, despite continuously professing to the contrary.

The Greek Cypriot Administration, whose representative attempts to portray it as the champion of human rights in every forum, has, to say the least, a tainted human rights record. The human rights violations committed in Cyprus against the Turkish Cypriot people during the period from 1963 to 1974 were attested to by relevant United Nations documents. On 10 September 1964, the then Secretary-General reported, "the economic restrictions being imposed against the Turkish communities in Cyprus, which in some instances have been so severe as to amount to a veritable siege, indicated that the Government of Cyprus seeks to force a potential solution by economic pressure" (S/5950, para. 222). Then, on 12 December 1964, the Secretary-General further stated, "in the report of 10 December, it was indicated that as at 1 September, 232 Turkish Cypriots were mission, according to the list completed by the Turkish Cypriot Missing Persons Bureau. Since that date, UNFICYP was informed that 23 Turkish Cypriots have been accounted for and their names have been deleted from the list of missing persons. This leaves 209 Turkish Cypriots still missing. Efforts to trace those missing will be continued by ICRC and UNFICYP, but there seems to be little prospect of finding them alive" (S/6102, para. 93). Furthermore, in his memoirs entitled *The Past Has Another Pattern*, the then American Under-Secretary of State, George Ball, said that the central interest of the Greek Cypriot leader Makarios "was to block off Turkish intervention so that he and his Greek Cypriots could go on happily massacring Turkish Cypriots" (p. 64).

Notwithstanding their bitter past experience, the Greek Cypriot rejection of your settlement plan and the current blockage by the Greek Cypriot Administration

of the adoption by the European Council of the Commission's financial aid and direct trade regulations for Northern Cyprus, the Turkish Cypriot side, in stark contrast, continues with its positive attitude and most recently has opened a secondary school in Karpaz for the Greek Cypriot children living in the north and rid its textbooks of any malicious language towards Greek Cypriots. This conciliatory approach of the Turkish Cypriot side is all the more important given the fact that there is no school in the south providing education for Turkish Cypriot children in their mother tongue and that the Greek Cypriot textbooks are filled with hatred and hostility towards Turkish Cypriots.

(*Signed*) Reşat **Çağlar**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

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The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security

Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan

The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security

Emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report describes the progress made with regard to the implementation of the Bonn Agreement by the Transitional Administration, with assistance of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan. It also describes key political and humanitarian developments in Afghanistan from 1 December 2003 to 22 November 2004.

The report highlights the achievement of two key milestones of the Bonn Agreement: the approval of the new Constitution by the Constitutional Loya Jirga and the holding of the presidential election. While these two events represent major advances towards the building of a democratic Afghanistan, the report also notes with concern the continuing instability and insecurity in the country.

The report emphasizes that considerable challenges remain before the holding of the parliamentary elections scheduled for spring 2005, including progress in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, counter-narcotics activities and security-sector reform, and that continued engagement by the international community, in particular the provision of sufficient security, is critical.

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The rehabilitation of the education system, refugee repatriation and relief, recovery and reconstruction efforts by the United Nations, with an emphasis on supporting the Government's development plan, continued during the reporting period. The human rights situation remains of serious concern.

The general success of the electoral process showed the determination of the Afghan people to have democratic government. However, the agenda facing the newly elected Government is significant. The report concludes that continued and further support by the international community will be necessary to fulfil the letter and the spirit of the Bonn Agreement.

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 58/27 A and B of 5 December 2003 and Security Council resolution 1536 (2004) of 26 March 2004. The report provides a summary of key political and humanitarian developments in Afghanistan as well as of the activities of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) from 1 December 2003 to 22 November 2004. The issues covered in the report are described in more detail in the periodic reports to the General Assembly and Security Council submitted during 2004 (A/58/742-S/2004/230 and A/58/868-S/2004/634).

II. Implementation of the Bonn Agreement

A. The political process

2. The Bonn Agreement of 5 December 2001 mapped out a process whereby provisional governing institutions would gradually increase in legitimacy, culminating in a fully representative Government after the holding of free and fair elections. The legitimacy of the Government would be rooted in a new Constitution. During the period under review, two major tasks of the Bonn Agreement were successfully completed: the approval of the new Constitution by the Constitutional Loya Jirga in January 2004 and the holding of the presidential election in October 2004.

Constitutional reform

3. The process of drafting the new Constitution began in November 2002 and continued through most of 2003 (see A/58/616, para. 8). The Constitutional Loya Jirga was convened in Kabul on 10 December 2003 to finalize and ratify the draft Constitution. A total of 502 delegates attended, of whom 20 per cent were women. On 4 January 2004, the delegates approved the new Constitution.

4. A central feature of the Constitutional Loya Jirga was that many positions on issues seemed to be decided on a regional or ethnic basis. Positions on issues such as the nationality of ministers, the timing of the elections and the national language, came down to either a political or a symbolic context, and sometimes both, between representatives from the north and those from the south. The role of Islam was the subject of another important debate, this time between fundamentalists and more secular-minded Afghans. The final text agreed to bear the imprint of these debates. It provides for a pure presidential system, but one that places a great emphasis on parliamentary control of the executive. The Constitution vests most powers in the central Government and does not devolve much authority to the provinces. It also calls for an independent judiciary, headed by a Supreme Court, and a legal framework that is consistent with the "beliefs and prescriptions" of Islam. In an important measure to advance national unity, the Constitution explicitly includes all minority groups in the definition of the nation and recognizes Dari and Pashto as official languages, and other languages as official in the area where the majority speaks them. The Constitution provides equal rights to men and women and guarantees that women will make up at least 25 per cent of the representatives in the lower house of parliament.

Election process

5. The Bonn Agreement called for elections to be held in June 2004 — or two years after the convening of the Emergency Loya Jirga — and also requested the United Nations to carry out a voter registration exercise. The latter occurred in two phases, the first between December 2003 and April 2004 and the second between May and August 2004. In the first phase, 1.9 million voters were registered in the eight main urban centres. The second phase, in which registration teams were extended to provincial capitals and rural areas, resulted in the registration of a further 8.6 million Afghans. At the end of registration, 41 per cent of the 10.5 million registered voters were women.

6. On 8 July, the Chairman of the United Nations-Afghan Joint Electoral Management Body — the independent commission mandated to conduct and supervise Afghanistan's electoral process — formally announced that the presidential election would be held on 9 October and parliamentary elections would be held in the Afghan month of Saur (20 April-20 May) 2005. While legal and technical difficulties provided a sufficient case for delaying and separating the elections, the Joint Electoral Management Body also noted widespread concern in Afghanistan about the lack of disarmament and the fear that this could prejudice the conduct and outcome of the parliamentary elections. It therefore called upon the Government and the international community to continue and intensify, ahead of the presidential and parliamentary elections, their efforts to strengthen the national armed forces and achieve broader disarmament, in order to create a safer environment for candidates and voters to express themselves freely.

7. The presidential election, which was contested by 18 candidates, including one woman, was held on schedule on 9 October. Despite fears that the process might be attacked by anti-Government elements, no major security incidents occurred. A number of opposition candidates, however, raised serious allegations regarding the fairness of the process, including problems with the use of indelible ink to mark voters' thumbs and assertions of undue influence on voters by polling staff and candidates' representatives. Those opposition candidates issued an appeal midway through the polling for voters to boycott the ballot. The boycott was largely ignored by voters: 8,128,940 ballots were cast, representing 70 per cent of the registered voters. Forty per cent of voters were women. Polling also took place in Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran, where over 580,000 and 240,000 Afghan refugees, respectively, voted. The elections were followed by some 5,321 domestic and 121 international observers and monitors, 22,000 party agents and 52,000 agents of candidates, as well as national and international media.

8. In the days after the ballot most of the candidates who had called for a boycott continued to allege serious irregularities and called for the reopening of some polling centres and for their complaints to be investigated by an independent panel. While the Joint Electoral Management Body did not agree to the former, it did request UNAMA to nominate an independent panel of international electoral experts to investigate their complaints. The panel's report to the Joint Electoral Management Body, which was made public on 2 November, found that the irregularities observed did not have a material impact on the overall outcome of the election. President Karzai won the election with 55.4 per cent of the vote. He was followed by Yonous Qanooni, with 16.3 per cent, Haji Mohammad Mohaqeq, with 11.6 per cent, and Abdul Rashid Dostum, with 10 per cent. The remaining 14 candidates each received

less than 2 per cent of the votes, and collectively 6 per cent. The candidates agreed to accept the election results.

9. A preliminary analysis of the final results suggests that, as with the Constitutional Loya Jirga, the assertion of ethnic identity played an important role. Electoral support for the four main contenders, President Karzai, Mr. Qanooni, Mr. Dostum and Mr. Mohaqeq, strongly correlated with the rural areas where Pashtuns, Tajiks, Uzbeks and Hazaras are, respectively, the majority groups. Ethnic considerations, however, appeared to have had less impact in major cities. This may be attributable to the fact that, since ethnic identity was not exploited aggressively during the campaign, candidates were able to operate widely in capitals outside their core constituencies.

10. Planning for the parliamentary elections is under way, and careful account is being taken of the experience gained during the presidential election. The parliamentary elections are much more complex logistically and present formidable security concerns. A number of key issues must be resolved in order to hold the elections by spring 2005: boundaries of districts must be delineated; population figures must be agreed upon for the assignment of parliamentary seats; the list of voters must be analysed, refined and updated; a complaints mechanism and electoral offence prosecution system must be developed at the local level; and the qualifications of thousands of potential candidates must be vetted prior to their registration. Finally, the expansion of the formal security apparatus will be essential to the success of parliamentary and local elections.

11. At the same time, President-elect Karzai, whose inauguration is scheduled for December, is now focusing on the task of forming the next Government. It is an opportunity to select an effective Cabinet that is able to extend government authority throughout the country and deliver the basic services. A cabinet that is both competent and representative of the ethnic, cultural and geographical diversity of the country will be critical for advancing national reconciliation. The President and his Government will need to tackle, with the support of the international community, formidable challenges that include persistent insecurity, the endemic illicit narcotics industry and the consolidation of key State institutions.

B. Security

Overall security situation

12. In the months prior to election day and the deployment of additional security forces which took place in the final weeks before the elections, there was a build-up of serious security incidents. Some of these were directed against the electoral effort, but others were directed more generally against peace and reconstruction activities. On 10 June, 10 Chinese road workers were killed, the highest death toll suffered by non-combatant expatriates in a single incident in Afghanistan. The killing of five employees of Médecins sans frontières on 2 June was the worst attack against humanitarian workers since the fall of the Taliban, causing the organization to withdraw completely. On 12 September, following the decision by President Karzai to replace the Governor of Herat, Ismail Khan, several hundred protesters attacked and burned the UNAMA office in Herat and looted the offices of other United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations and the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission. The fact that these attacks occurred in

areas previously thought not to be at high risk was of serious concern. Similarly, security in the south and south-east deteriorated to the point where large areas were effectively out of bounds to the assistance community, and government officials were frequent targets of attacks. There were real concerns over the impact that this obvious deterioration of the security situation might have on the credibility of the elections. Significant extraordinary measures were therefore taken to safeguard the election.

13. The generally calm security environment on election day was due in part to the additional International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and coalition troops deployed before the election. The cooperation, planning and support provided by these forces was exceptional, and this indicates that they should remain in Afghanistan for the parliamentary and local elections. Security was also greatly enhanced by progress made in the training and deployment of the Afghan army and police forces, which performed extremely well on election day, whether in protecting polling stations, deterring threats or escorting election materials.

14. In the aftermath of the election, and with a reduction in the coalition and ISAF forces, three broad security threats continue to effect the Bonn process: (a) extremist or terrorist attacks, (b) factional violence among militia forces and (c) violence and other threats to human security by criminal elements, in particular those involved in the trafficking of drugs. This reality was tragically borne out by a suicide bombing in the centre of Kabul on 23 October, in which two people lost their lives. A few days later, on 28 October, three international electoral staff were abducted in the Kart-e-Parwan district of Kabul in broad daylight. As a result, additional security measures have been taken to enhance the safety of staff — the most stringent measures since 2001. The abducted staff were subsequently released on 22 November.

15. Without substantial progress in addressing the sources of insecurity, reconstruction efforts and the establishment of viable State institutions will continue to falter, and the economy may well be subsumed by the illicit-drugs industry. The deployment now of additional international forces, with robust and uniform rules of engagement, can provide the critical space in which progress can be made in the mutually reinforcing areas of security-sector reform, anti-narcotics activities, reconstruction, expansion of government authority and imposition of the rule of law.

Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration

16. The disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process, supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and under the leadership of Japan, began in October 2003. It has two major components: the demobilization of soldiers from existing military units and the cantonment of heavy weapons. Participants in the Berlin conference of April 2004 resolved to demobilize at least 40 per cent of the 100,000 targeted soldiers and to canton all heavy weapons prior to the elections.

17. While these targets were not met prior to the election, the electoral process itself appeared to have a positive effect on disarmament. For example, a provision in the electoral law stated that candidates could not register to vote if they maintained connections with armed militias. Hence, the Central government appointed commanders from within the structure of militias that were linked to aspiring candidates. The Ministry of Justice, in accordance with the political party law, also

refused to register groups with known links to armed factions. This provided a further incentive to decommission militia units.

18. To accelerate demobilization and disarmament, in July 2004 the President issued a decree identifying additional units to be demobilized prior to the elections and instructing the Ministries of Defence and Finance to begin to apply financial sanctions in cases of non-compliance. By the end of September an additional 5,480 soldiers had entered the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme, beyond the 15,355 that had been disarmed before the decree was issued. Over 20,000 soldiers have begun the process of reintegration.

19. The issue of irregular militias also needs to be addressed. These are armed groups that are not on the payroll of the Ministry of Defence, and hence not included in the ongoing disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme. But these groups are increasingly responsible for insecurity in many parts of Afghanistan. The Government, together with the international community in Kabul, is examining the means to dismantle these groups through weapons collection and community development programmes.

Afghan national army

20. The Afghan National Army, which is being formed under the lead of the United States of America, assisted by France, has grown to approximately 15,000 trained personnel, of which approximately 8,500 passed basic training during the review period. At full strength, it will consist of approximately 70,000 soldiers organized into five corps: the central corps in Kabul and four regional corps in Kandahar, Paktia, Herat and Balkh. The three brigades in the central corps are currently at full strength, with 15 battalions altogether. Plans are under way to develop the more technical elements of the corps, especially artillery, air defence and engineering. It is expected to take five to seven years to fully establish the regional corps. The process has begun, with four regional corps commanders and some of their key staff having been appointed on 1 September 2004. The Afghan National Army currently has 18 battalions deployed around the country on security and "show of force" tasks.

21. The main accomplishment of the Afghan National Army over the past year was the provision of security for the presidential election. It was an integral part of the nationwide security plan and played a major role in the search for improvised explosive devices before polling stations opened, in securing roads and as a visible quick-reaction force. In addition, it was primarily responsible for the security of the regional counting stations. Throughout the election the soldiers were highly visible and technically proficient and were able to secure the cooperation of Afghans in locating and neutralizing improvised explosive devices, rocket-launching areas and potential ambush sites.

22. The Afghan National Army also provided security, in isolated cases, for the mobile disarmament units conducting the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme. In addition, it was instrumental in separating the forces of Ismail Khan and his opponents, Amanullah Khan (Shindand) and Zahir Khan (Qala-e-Naw), in western Afghanistan during the conflict in August 2004, when it deployed two battalions to the area at short notice, where they provided a buffer between the belligerent forces to allow negotiations to continue.

Police reform

23. Training, staffing and sustaining an effective police force is a vital element of assuring security and the rule of law in Afghanistan. This task, undertaken under the lead of Germany, has proved to be challenging. The existing police force continues to suffer from a lack of well-trained officers, appropriate equipment and effective command structures. A number of important initiatives were taken to address these concerns. Five regional training centres were established across the country, in addition to the German-supported Police Academy and the United States-led Central Training Centre in Kabul. As of mid-October, 2,624 personnel had been trained at the Kabul Police Academy. These included 1,831 non-commissioned officers, of which 55 were female, and 752 border police. In addition, 27,200 police received basic police training through United States Government-supported programmes. The projected strength of the police force is 50,000, plus 12,000 border guards.

24. At the Doha conference on police reconstruction, held on 18 and 19 May 2004, co-hosted by the Governments of Afghanistan, Germany and Qatar and the United Nations, participants pledged $350 million for police programmes over the next few years. The UNDP-administered Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan (LOTFA), which pays for police salaries and equipment, currently suffers from a financing shortfall of $72.6 million.

25. The Afghan police force proved itself during the electoral process despite its limited means. Police, who were provided with specific electoral training, accompanied registration teams to ensure their security and provide order during registration. Police also guarded polling sites on election day and, along with the Afghan National Army, formed the first line of defence against those who might have attacked the election process.

Justice reform

26. The process of reforming the justice sector, led by Italy, is based on two complementary efforts: strengthening political will and providing financial and technical assistance. The general assessment of the justice sector is that there is weak management and communication among justice institutions, and this needs to be addressed by coordination at all levels. The absence of implementing legislation for organizing the justice system compounds these problems. In addition, after 25 years of war, the justice sector lacks the required number of skilled staff, and there is a real need to build the capacities of existing justice-sector staff.

27. Under the new Constitution the Supreme Court is the highest judicial organ in Afghanistan, and its structure and administration are well defined. The physical facilities of the permanent justice institutions, including the Supreme Court, the Attorney General's office and the Ministry of Justice, are currently undergoing rehabilitation with support from UNDP.

28. Legal education reform, also supported by UNDP, is a crucial step for ensuring a new generation of judicial staff. Two legal education systems exist in parallel: the Faculty of Law and Political Studies, following the old French model, and the Faculty of the Shariah. Both have very old curricula that have not been revised over the past 25 years. Future actions include setting up a board of experts to work closely with the Ministry of Higher Education; the enhancement of teaching and research capacities; the creation of new linkages with foreign academic institutions;

the rehabilitation of physical infrastructure (justice facilities in six provinces, including Kabul, are being rehabilitated); and the establishment or improvement of law libraries.

29. Complementary to the justice reform effort is the rehabilitation of the correctional system, supported by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. A key reform was the transfer of prison administration from the Ministry of Interior to the Ministry of Justice. A draft penitentiary law finalized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is currently under review by the Ministry of Justice. The Office has also begun the rehabilitation of the detention and prison facilities in Kabul and selected provinces so that they meet international standards.

30. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime has also been providing advisory services and legislative assistance for ratifying and implementing the 12 universal instruments against terrorism. Assistance has been provided in reviewing and drafting the relevant national legislation, and training activities are being undertaken to facilitate their practical implementation.

Counter-narcotics activities

31. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime *Opium Survey 2004* indicates that opium cultivation increased by two thirds this year, reaching an unprecedented 131,000 hectares and taking place in all provinces. Bad weather and disease, however, lowered the opium yield per hectare, resulting in an output of 4,200 tons — an increase of "only" 17 per cent. Afghanistan remains the world's largest opium producer, accounting for 75 per cent of global production. In 2003, the domestic value of the crop in Afghanistan was about $2 billion to $3 billion (or an estimated 68 per cent of the gross domestic product), while its value on the world market was about $30 billion to $60 billion.

32. Due to excess supply, opium prices in 2004 are 67 per cent lower than they were last year. Stable heroin prices at border crossings are likely the result of law enforcement, which has made it more difficult for traffickers to refine drugs and smuggle them across the country.

33. Economic dependency on poppy cultivation, limited law enforcement resources, corruption and the lack of an effective institutional framework for drug control add to the complexity of the situation. Narcotics are becoming an increasing threat to national security, social stability and governmental effectiveness. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland has taken the lead role in addressing this particularly difficult issue.

34. There are three key elements involved in eliminating the poppy economy and its deleterious effect on Afghanistan's political and reconstruction processes. First, the international community must assist the Government of Afghanistan in its interdiction efforts. If vigorously pursued, these efforts will substantively decrease the drug trade in the coming few years. Participating in interdiction will strengthen the Afghan Government's counter-narcotics institutions. At the same time, the Government must be assisted in strengthening its institutional capacity to arrest, investigate, try and imprison serious criminal offenders. Second, local economies must be supported through the provision of licit on-farm income-generating opportunities and the establishment of larger-scale infrastructure and industrial projects to provide non-farm income opportunities. Third, the link between the

disarmament, demobilization and reintegration effort and counter-narcotics activities must be addressed. Ex-combatants resisting disarmament, demobilization and reintegration continue to have significant resources and power because of the illicit drug trade, which enables them to influence government institutions, thereby overriding the existing rule of law.

35. Dismantling the opium economy will require, therefore, a combination of coercive measures and the instruments of democracy, rule of law and development. National efforts alone will not suffice. Afghanistan's cultivation and trafficking have ramifications for transit countries, just as habits in consumer countries provide incentives to maintain the opium economy, with all its deleterious effects, in Afghanistan. Therefore, additional efforts are also needed by countries through which Afghan opiates are trafficked and places where heroin abuse is a significant problem.

Provincial reconstruction teams and the International Security Assistance Force

36. The Provincial Reconstruction Team Working Group is the operational forum where the Government, donors, military forces and other civilian and military actors can discuss the management of civil-military issues. The non-governmental organization (NGO) Civil Military Group allows for direct dialogue between national and international NGOs and the military forces. These two structures are linked and report to the Provincial Reconstruction Team Executive Steering Committee, a high-level decision-making and consultative body that provides guidance to the management of provincial reconstruction teams and on how civilian and military actors interact within the framework of development and reconstruction.

37. Both ISAF and the coalition forces have planned the integration of provincial reconstruction team operations with the national priority programmes led by the Government of Afghanistan. Although there is a gap between plans and implementation, there is a commitment to ensure that the reconstruction work of the provincial reconstruction teams is carried out in agreement with Afghan authorities. There are currently 19 provincial reconstruction teams (15 coalition-forces teams in the south, south-east and west and four ISAF teams in the north). ISAF is planning the second stage of its expansion, which will cover the west of the country.

C. Social issues

Overall human rights situation

38. United Nations human rights activity continues to follow two connected tracks: technical cooperation to build the capacity of the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission and a human rights component within UNAMA that undertakes monitoring and assists the development of the Commission, other national institutions and civil society. An important development has been the Government's commitment to implement and report on ratified human rights treaties and the establishment of human rights units in a number of ministries.

39. The United Nations independent expert on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan, Cherif Bassiouni, who conducted his initial mission to Afghanistan from 14 to 21 August 2004, expressed serious concerns about the human rights

situation. Mr. Bassiouni identified a number of priority issues for immediate action, mostly concerning conditions of detention (especially with regard to women and children); the illegal nature of the detention of 725 detainees transferred from Shibergan to Kabul a few months ago (and subsequently released); the lack of transparency in and the question of the legality of the detention of Afghan civilians by the coalition forces; the abduction and trafficking of children; and the need to address the continuing impunity of human rights violators, particularly local commanders.

40. There are continuing reports of trafficking, kidnapping and smuggling of children, and their subsequent deportation from the countries of destination. Children further risk being rejected by their families once they return to their places of origin. The Government has begun to address the problem and, with technical support from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs took a leading role in bringing together various ministries to formulate a national plan of action on combating child trafficking.

Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission

41. Throughout the past year, the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission continued to develop its institutional strength and to implement its work plan in five areas: monitoring and investigation, women's rights, children's rights, human rights education and transitional justice. It now has 10 offices and more than 300 staff. Major achievements included its establishment as a permanent body under the new Constitution; an extensive consultation exercise among the Afghan population on transitional justice; the joint Commission-UNAMA political rights verification campaign, which issued three public reports before the election on the conditions for the free exercise of political rights (the Commission was also an accredited election observer and monitored about 1,000 polling sites); successfully taking up high-profile cases; processing more than 100 complaints; and holding some 200 human rights education and training workshops. The Commission receives extensive institutional support from UNDP.

Gender

42. In certain areas of the country, strong social and cultural norms continue to limit women's public role. Conservative ideologues further deny women their rights. Vital health and educational services are unevenly and insufficiently available. The institutional mechanisms of the Government to effectively address these issues are still in formation. In addition, the capacity of the Ministry of Women's Affairs, especially at the middle-management level, is weak, and its visibility and effectiveness in the provinces very from region to region. Finally, the difficult security situation in the country is a major threat for women.

43. The maternal mortality rate in Afghanistan is 1,600 per 100,000 live births. Maternal health-care services are not equally distributed, and the majority of women, especially from rural areas, do not have access to essential obstetric care. Moreover, pregnant women, as well as children under five, are at high risk of contracting malaria.

44. At the same time, progress has been made to strengthen the position of women in the country. Women made up 20 per cent of the 502 Constitutional Loya Jirga delegates. The Constitution of Afghanistan, adopted in January 2004, firmly states

that men and women have equal rights. The Constitution, as noted above, also includes a number of provisions securing the political participation of women. In regard to the electoral process, 41 per cent of the 10.5 million Afghans who registered to vote were women. One woman ran for president and two others were vice-presidential candidates. At the Berlin conference, the Government of Afghanistan stated its commitment to increase the number of women in the civil service. Currently, 21 per cent of permanent government employees are women. The Ministry of Women's Affairs, with support from UNDP, is currently providing training and advocacy courses in gender rights for 11 other Government ministries.

III. Relief, recovery and reconstruction

A. Government administration

45. The underlying strategy of United Nations relief, recovery and reconstruction efforts since the signing of the Bonn Agreement has been to move from the direct implementation of projects to supporting the Government's own development plans. While the Afghan Government has a coherent vision for its post-war reconstruction, its capacity remains weak in terms of public administration, institutions and ability to extend its development plans to provincial governments as well as to deliver essential public services. Many provincial governments remain semi-autonomous in relation to the central Government, particularly with regard to the remittance of tax revenue and the implementation of national laws at the provincial level. Entrenched interests in the provinces have also been able to capture parts of the provincial governments and impede reform. The uncertain security situation and the unchecked development of a parallel and illicit narco-economy exacerbate this weakness and seriously challenge further development, both economic and institutional.

46. International support for Afghanistan's reconstruction was reaffirmed at the Berlin conference earlier this year. The conference attendees issued a declaration that strongly endorsed the Government's work plan. According to that plan, this fiscal year the Government will accelerate reforms in the following key areas: public administration, fiscal management, private sector development, economic and social development (through the preparation of the poverty reduction strategy paper), rule of law, human rights, gender, disarmament, security and counter-narcotics activities.

47. At the Berlin conference the Government also presented a long-term costing report entitled "Securing Afghanistan's Future". It provided a comprehensive calculation of the cost of key recovery and reconstruction targets. The report formed the basis for assistance requests and donor pledges at the conference. As noted in A/58/868-S/2004/634 (para. 55), the Berlin conference was followed by the Afghanistan Development Forum in Kabul, where the development budget and core budget were presented to donors. The core budget ($609 million) is now fully financed, and development expenditures will be more than $1 billion in 2005, mostly for the national priority programmes. In addition, new programmes are being developed for the urban sector, justice sector, private sector and skills development. The Government's capacity to manage information in a transparent and effective manner is also improving. International aid for the national development budget are being tracked by the Ministry of Finance. Despite progress, however, the bulk of

external assistance to Afghanistan still does not go through national budget channels. Nonetheless, the Berlin conference, the Afghan Development Forum and the Afghan calendar year 1383 development budget together represent a significant step forward in improving the planning and financing of reconstruction under government leadership.

48. Between May and October 2004, the United Nations country team, together with its partners from the Government, from the NGO and donor communities and from international financial institutions, conducted Afghanistan's first common country assessment — an in-depth analysis of the country's development challenges and their root causes. The common country assessment process covered four thematic areas: institutional development and governance; peace, security and justice; economic development and growth; and social well-being. These themes are key to helping Afghanistan achieve the Millennium Development Goals. The common country assessment will be closely aligned with the Government-led poverty reduction programmes, with the consultative group mechanism providing the main forum for consultation.

49. A vital tool for government administration, as well as reconstruction and development planning, is the national census. Afghanistan's last census was conducted in 1979, but not completed. A pre-census household listing began in October 2002 and is about to be completed, though fieldwork in four provinces has been delayed for reasons of poor security or difficult climate. Planning has nonetheless begun for the census itself, which is scheduled to be held over the course of 20 days in 2006. Currently, a planning team led by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is in Kabul. A donors' conference will be held in December to seek funding to carry out the census.

B. Emergency response and development issues

50. This year marks the sixth year of below-average rainfall and snowfall in Afghanistan, exacerbating the chronic water shortage in the country. Vulnerable populations, totalling an estimated 4 million people, have been identified in localized pockets in at least 27 provinces. Especially vulnerable provinces include Ghor, Nimroz, Uruzgan, Paktika, Ghazni, Daikundi, Kandahar and Helmand. Their vulnerability stems from a combination of the loss of groundwater associated with diminished snowpacks and less rainfall. As a result, crop yields were reduced during the 2004 harvest and the cost of grain rose. There is some evidence of distress livestock sales and rising casual labour rates, suggesting that the drought has made farm life unsustainable for some. In the wider context, the drought may affect the agricultural mainstay of the economy and have a negative impact on economic growth. The Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development is leading the drought-response process, with support from UNAMA. In particular, an emergency appeal for $71 million covering the six-month period between September 2004 and February 2005 was issued. The response by donors to the appeal has been extremely positive, and the current shortfall amounts to roughly $9 million.

C. Agriculture

51. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has been supporting the rehabilitation and development of the agricultural sector. Specifically, FAO is assisting vulnerable farmers by improving food security and nutrition, ensuring sustainable management of natural resources, contributing to the generation of viable alternative livelihoods, and building capacity in the agricultural sector.

D. Health and nutrition

52. The dual challenge in the health sector is to expand national services and improve the quality of health care — preventive and curative — while remaining within the Government's recurring cost projections. In line with the strategy prepared by the Ministry of Health, UNICEF and other United Nations agencies, the international community is supporting the Government in rebuilding the primary health-care system. The overall strategy in 2004 has focused on prevention, improving subnational capacity, establishing health-network structures, strengthening outreach services and building partnerships with NGOs and the private sector. There has been a particular focus on obstetric care and reproductive and child health. Existing projects to support hospitals and other social institutions, control disease, respond to outbreaks and pre-position medical supplies are ongoing. Specific programmes to eradicate polio and maternal and neonatal tetanus, as well as other vaccination and immunization campaigns, are also continuing.

53. Tuberculosis remains a serious public health problem in Afghanistan. With support from the World Health Organization (WHO), 162 health facilities in the country are offering services in 141 districts that represent 54 per cent of the country's population. The treatment success rate was 86 per cent in 2002. Anti-tuberculosis medicines for 2004 and at least half of 2005 have been procured. These are sufficient to provide a full course of treatment to some 25,000 tuberculosis patients.

54. Under the Roll Back Malaria project, WHO is assisting the Ministry of Health and local health authorities to combat malaria in 14 provinces where the disease is endemic. Through this project, 600,000 individuals are receiving full treatment for malaria every year. In addition 750,000 individuals are protected from malaria and leishmaniasis by sleeping under insecticide-treated nets provided under the project.

E. Education

55. The reactivation of the national primary-education system has been an important success of the immediate post-conflict period. Building on this, the Government's strategic focus in 2004 has been on improving the quality and content of the education package. This involved significant support from UNICEF in teacher training and upgrading, the provision of school materials and the application of curriculum reform policies. UNICEF, with the Ministry of Education, distributed teaching and learning materials to 4.2 million schoolchildren and 74,466 teachers. Efforts are being made to ensure smoother and more consistent salary payments to teaching staff, and particular attention is being given to securing girls' access to

education outside of the main urban centres. The focus on developing the capacity of educational authorities in the provinces has intensified, which is similar to what has occurred in respect of other social services.

56. Thanks in part to these efforts, the net enrolment rate for Afghan children between 7 and 13 years of age has increased to 54 per cent (67 per cent for boys and 37 per cent for girls). A number of factors, however, such as distances to schools, the inadequacy of facilities and lack of separate schooling for boys and girls, continue to impede larger enrolment. To address this, UNICEF is supporting the establishment of community-based schools, especially for girls in villages where no formal schools are accessible. The first phase of this project is to establish 1,500 community schools for 75,000 girls and boys in those areas where girls' enrolment is below the national average. So far, the villages have been identified and the training for the provincial educational officials has been completed.

F. Media

57. Since the Bonn process began, the number of media outlets has expanded significantly. There are now 42 radio stations (25 non-State-run), 18 television stations (14 State-controlled) and some 300 print publications (daily, weekly and monthly). The quality of these media, particularly print publications, is very uneven. The sustainability of all media outlets is not guaranteed. Many non-State-run publications depend on grants, as the Afghan media market is not yet strong enough to allow outlets to sustain themselves on advertisements, and many consumers can purchase publications only at subsidized prices. International support for State-owned Radio-Television Afghanistan has resulted in the provision of new equipment, new studios and satellite facilities. UNAMA has been assisting with programme production and capacity-building as a means to supplement the efforts of other organizations.

58. The Government this year adopted a new media law that prohibits censoring or limiting mass media and affirms the rights to freedom of thought, speech and information. It also provides legal protection to journalists to exercise their profession and to protect their sources.

59. Before the election, NGOs, bilateral organizations, the United Nations and the secretariat of the Joint Electoral Management Body offered election-related training to Afghan journalists, as most of them had never covered an election. This included training on balanced and impartial coverage, "hate speech", electoral legislation and the media code of conduct.

G. Voluntary repatriation and reintegration

60. Between January and October 2004, some 740,000 individuals returned to Afghanistan under the voluntary and assisted repatriation programme supported by the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Of these, 370,000 came from Pakistan, 360,000 from the Islamic Republic of Iran and 10,000 from other countries. Since 2002, over 3 million people have returned voluntarily. The largest number of the returnees (43 per cent) went to the central region of Afghanistan, followed by those returning to the northern region (22 per cent) and the eastern region (20 per cent).

Kabul province remained the province receiving the largest number of returnees. A high percentage of returnees are landless (70 per cent), or claim not to have a house or shelter to return to (27 per cent).

61. Returns from the Islamic Republic of Iran have increased significantly relative to last year, largely as a result of measures put in place by its Government to encourage returns to Afghanistan. In Pakistan, some 80,000 persons returned from the "new camps" that were established after 11 September 2001. Those refugees who remained in Pakistan were relocated to other camps, and the new camps were closed by the end of September 2004.

62. Some 35,000 internally displaced persons were able to find a solution to their displacement either by returning to their places of origin or settling locally. However, security conditions in a number of provinces in the north and the central highlands still prevent the return of many internally displaced persons and refugees originating from these areas.

63. The reintegration assistance programme continued to focus on the construction of rural houses — a high-priority request from returnees — for the most vulnerable groups. An average of 15 to 20 per cent of returnees have benefited from this activity. Between 2002 and the end of 2004, UNHCR will have built some 120,000 houses, mostly in areas receiving large numbers of returnees. Lack of employment and slow progress in reconstruction in rural areas pose a continuing challenge to the sustainable reintegration of returnees. The increased number of returns to urban areas is placing an additional burden on the already stretched infrastructure capacity of major cities and highlights the need for the development of a social housing scheme.

64. Reports indicate that returnees did not face marked discrimination in terms of access to basic social services, though they experienced occupation or confiscation of their land and related abuses such as extortion, illegal taxation or forced recruitment. Beginning next year, UNHCR will work more intensively with the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission on return and human rights monitoring to enhance and expand the current returnee monitoring exercise.

H. Mine action

65. Under the direction of the Mine Action Consultative Group and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and with the support of Canada, the United Nations Mine Action Centre for Afghanistan is currently facilitating the process of transferring responsibility for mine action in Afghanistan from the United Nations to a national mine-action coordination agency. The Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan employs approximately 8,000 Afghan personnel and 22 international technical staff, in addition to 700 demobilized soldiers, making it one of the largest civilian employers in the country.

66. The strategic goal of the Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan is to remove the impact of mines and unexploded ordnance from all high-impact areas by 2007 and to make Afghanistan mine-impact-free by 2012. Since January 2003, 33 square kilometres of minefields and 69 square kilometres of battlefields have been cleared, and a total of 2,354,244 mines and pieces of unexploded ordnance have been destroyed. More than 650,000 returnees have received mine-risk education in

encashment and transit centres, and some 53,000 primary schoolteachers have been trained and provided with teaching materials. The number of mine victims has been reduced from approximately 150 a month in 2002 to less than 100 a month in 2004.

67. On 1 March 2003 Afghanistan became a State party to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction. Afghanistan has made a firm commitment to clear all anti-personnel mines within 10 years, destroy all stockpiled anti-personnel mines by February 2007, provide mine-risk education to vulnerable groups and assist landmine survivors.

I. Infrastructure development

68. Rural infrastructure development, coordinated by the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development and supported by UNDP, is ongoing in all provinces and includes the construction of houses for returning refugees and internally displaced persons; road, school and clinic construction; agricultural development; and economic regeneration projects.

69. In collaboration with various technical ministries, the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) has implemented various projects to build roads, buildings, and irrigation works throughout the country, mainly under the Government's National Emergency Employment Programme. With funds from the World Bank and UNICEF, UNOPS infrastructure development activities in Afghanistan are designed to support the country's socio-economic recovery in the rural areas. UNOPS has adopted labour-intensive methods as a means of generating emergency employment opportunities for targeted vulnerable groups.

IV. Mission support

70. The integration of United Nations agencies continued to be facilitated by the United Nations Operations Centre in Afghanistan. UNOPS constructed additional office and warehousing facilities there, and WHO and UNFPA are constructing office buildings to be occupied by the end of 2004. With 84 beds, the complex now provides housing for United Nations Volunteers and others. A UNICEF warehouse was used to prepare 40,000 polling kits for the election. An international commercial bank opened inside the compound, reducing the need for United Nations staff to carry significant sums of cash.

71. A United Nations security assessment team, comprising representatives of the Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator, UNAMA and UNICEF, spent three weeks in Afghanistan in July 2004 and produced a report with 11 recommendations, all of which were endorsed by the Secretary-General, to integrate the security management structure in Afghanistan. Notably, the new security management structure included a Security Information and Operations Centre, which is located inside the United Nations Operations Centre compound, bringing together representatives from United Nations agencies, the Afghan Government, ISAF, the coalition and NGOs to coordinate responses to complex developments.

72. Medical care is an important part of staff security and safety. The UNAMA clinic in the Operations Centre compound was upgraded with laboratory, X-ray,

surgical and dental suites staffed by six doctors. In addition, a helipad has been completed to facilitate emergency treatment. All seven regions outside of Kabul have been provided with clinics and a full-time United Nations doctor.

73. UNOPS assumed responsibility for common services provided at the Operations Centre compound, and UNAMA co-located with the UNOPS regional operational centre in Dubai for the provision of operation services. The Dubai office and warehouse will also be used by UNAMA as a storage site for disaster-recovery services.

V. Observations

74. The political sphere during the period under review was dominated by the electoral process — the registration of 10.5 million voters and the holding of presidential elections on 9 October 2004. Despite significant challenges to these processes and some shortcomings in their implementation, the conduct of both exceeded expectations.

75. The general success of the electoral process is a result of many factors and the hard work of a variety of different people and organizations. Many of these — national and international security forces, donors, neighbouring countries, the United Nations and other organizations — have been mentioned already. In the end, however, the major reason for the success of the electoral process was the desire of the Afghan people themselves to ensure that it would succeed. They signed up willingly to carry out registration and to work the polling stations, and on polling day more than 8 million accepted the risk of attack to come out and vote. This is a decisive indication that the Bonn process, and the institutions that are being formed within it, have the backing of a large majority of the Afghan people.

76. The successful presidential election redeemed the difficult decision made by the Joint Electoral Management Body to separate presidential from parliamentary elections. The complexities avoided by postponing parliamentary elections allowed all actors to focus productively on carrying out the presidential elections as well as possible. Now it is vital that the international community help the Afghans to hold parliamentary elections next year, thereby fulfilling the commitment made in Bonn three years ago. The Joint Electoral Management Body has begun preparations for the parliamentary elections and will present a plan to donors and the international community shortly. UNAMA continues to advise and support the Joint Electoral Management Body in this task.

77. Fulfilling the spirit of the Bonn Agreement requires more than fulfilling the letter of its defined political process. In particular, much more needs to be achieved towards the fundamental goal of building the capacity of government at all levels and extending its authority to all parts of the country. This extension of authority is required in order to ensure the rule of law, the functioning of the legal economy, the practice of human and political rights and positive relations with neighbouring countries. This will require further progress on all five security sector reform items. The new Government, with the continued support of the international community, must address arms and narcotics — two issues that have the potential to combine and form a vicious cycle that could seriously undermine much of the progress made. The strong support provided by the people of Afghanistan to the newly elected President should help bring about significant progress on these fronts.

78. The gradual handing over of functions to the Afghan Government — for example, in the electoral field and in demining — is a positive indicator of developments made in the past three years. It is important that these functions be handed over to Afghan bodies with sufficient capacity to manage them. The overall policy direction, and the planning of reconstruction, has been successfully taken over by the Afghan Government. The pledges made at the Berlin conference for the Afghan Government's work plan are reassuring signs of the donor community's confidence in the Government in this regard and of the quality of the plans themselves. The international community will have to remain a key source of funding for Afghanistan's development for some years to come. At the same time, it is extremely important that the Afghan Government continue to implement its reforms, streamline the government apparatus and undertake concerted efforts to ensure that a culture of government corruption does not take root.

79. The year ahead will present many challenges to the political and economic recovery of Afghanistan. For the first time, however, Afghanistan will face these challenges with a directly elected President endowed with a strong popular mandate. The United Nations remains committed to assisting the new Government as it continues to address the vital tasks required to fulfil the letter and the spirit of the Bonn Agreement. The most important of these tasks have been outlined in the present report. The United Nations will rely on the cooperation and commitment of the lead nations for security sector reform, as well as donor support for implementing the Afghan Government's reconstruction work plan.

80. After a tense year fraught with risks, during which many issues — including social indicators and human rights — remained insufficiently addressed, it is a cause for hope and optimism that Afghans have embraced with such enthusiasm the transition to civilian, democratic rule. The large number of Afghans who have registered and voted, who continue to attend school and who have returned from exile to their country are as many rewards for the investment of the international community in the Bonn process and an encouragement to remain fully engaged.

81. In conclusion, I take this opportunity to thank my Special Representative and the men and women of UNAMA and its partner organizations for their outstanding efforts on behalf of Afghanistan, under difficult and dangerous conditions.

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General Assembly

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Fifty-ninth session
Agenda item 17 (a)

Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments: appointment of members of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mrs. Denisa **Hutanová** (Slovakia)

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 17 September 2004, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled "Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments: appointment of members of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions".

2. At its 21st meeting, on 5 November, the Fifth Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretary-General concerning the vacancies in the membership of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions that would occur as a result of the expiration of the term of office of six of its members on 31 December 2004 (A/59/101);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General containing the names of eight persons nominated by their respective Governments for appointment or reappointment to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for a three-year term of office beginning on 1 January 2005 (A/C.5/59/5).

3. At the same meeting, the Committee decided, by acclamation, to recommend to the General Assembly that it appoint Rajat Saha (India), Sun Minqin (China), Jun Yamazaki (Japan), Ronald Elkhuizen (Netherlands) and Jerry Kramer (Canada) as members of the Advisory Committee for a three-year term of office beginning on 1 January 2005 (see para. 7).

4. The Committee then proceeded to select, by secret ballot, one person from the three candidates proposed by the Latin American and Caribbean States. The result of the voting was as follows:

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Latin American and Caribbean States

Number of ballots cast:	185
Invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	185
Abstentions:	1
Number of members voting:	184
Required majority:	93
Number of votes obtained:	
Jorge Flores Callejas	83
Santiago Wins	67
Nazareth A. Incera	34

5. In accordance with rule 93 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the Committee proceeded to a second round of secret balloting for the two candidates who had obtained the largest number of votes. The result of the voting was as follows:

Number of ballots cast:	187
Invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	187
Abstentions:	0
Number of members voting:	187
Required majority:	94
Number of votes obtained:	
Jorge Flores Callejas	105
Santiago Wins	82

6. Having obtained the required majority, Jorge Flores Callejas (Honduras) was recommended for appointment as a member of the Advisory Committee for a three-year term of office beginning on 1 January 2005 (see para. 7).

Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

7. The Fifth Committee recommends that the General Assembly appoint the following persons as members of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for a three-year term of office beginning on 1 January 2005:

Mr. Ronald Elkhuizen (Netherlands)

Mr. Jorge Flores Callejas (Honduras)

Mr. Jerry Kramer (Canada)

Ms. Sun Mingin (China)

Mr. Rajat Saha (India)

Mr. Jun Yamazaki (Japan)

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Fifty-ninth session
Agenda item 17 (b)

Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments: appointment of members of the Committee on Contributions

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mrs. Denisa **Hutanová** (Slovakia)

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 17 September 2004, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled "Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments: appointment of members of the Committee on Contributions".

2. At its 21st meeting, on 5 November, the Fifth Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretary-General concerning the vacancies in the membership of the Committee on Contributions that would occur as a result of the expiration of the term of office of six of its members on 31 December 2004 (A/59/102);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General containing the names of six persons nominated by their respective Governments for appointment or reappointment to the Committee on Contributions for a three-year term of office beginning on 1 January 2005 (A/C.5/59/6).

3. At the same meeting, the Committee decided, by acclamation, to recommend to the General Assembly that it appoint David Dutton (Australia), Paul Ekorong a Dong (Cameroon), Bernardo Greiver del Hoyo (Uruguay), Hassan Mohammed Hassan (Nigeria), Eduardo Héctor Iglesias (Argentina) and Eduardo Manuel da Fonseca Fernandes Ramos (Portugal) as members of the Committee on Contributions for a three-year term of office beginning on 1 January 2005 (see para. 6).

4. Also at the same meeting, the Fifth Committee considered a note by the Secretary-General (A/59/102/Add.1) concerning a vacancy in the membership of the

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Committee on Contributions as a result of the resignation of Sergei I. Mareyev (Russian Federation), and a note by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/59/6/Add.1) by which it was informed of the nomination by the Government of the Russian Federation and the endorsement by the Group of Eastern European States of Vyacheslav Anatolievich Logutov (Russian Federation) to fill the remainder of the term of office of Mr. Mareyev, which expires on 31 December 2005.

5. At its 21st meeting, the Committee decided, by acclamation, to recommend to the General Assembly that it appoint Vyacheslav Anatolievich Logutov (Russian Federation) as a member of the Committee on Contributions for a term of office beginning on 1 January 2005 and ending on 31 December 2005 (see para. 7).

Recommendations of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends that the General Assembly appoint the following persons as members of the Committee on Contributions for a three-year term of office beginning on 1 January 2005:

Mr. David Dutton (Australia)
Mr. Paul Ekorong a Dong (Cameroon)
Mr. Bernardo Greiver del Hoyo (Uruguay)
Mr. Hassan Mohammed Hassan (Nigeria)
Mr. Eduardo Hector Iglesias (Argentina)
Mr. Eduardo Manuel da Fonseca Fernandes Ramos (Portugal)

7. The Fifth Committee also recommends that the General Assembly appoint Mr. Vyacheslav Anatolievich Logutov (Russian Federation) as a member of the Committee on Contributions for a term of office beginning on 1 January 2005 and ending on 31 December 2005.

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Fifty-ninth session
Agenda item 17 (c)

Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments: confirmation of the appointment of members of the Investments Committee

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mrs. Denisa **Hutanová** (Slovakia)

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 17 September 2004, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled "Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments: confirmation of the appointment of members of the Investments Committee".

2. At its 21st meeting, on 5 November, the Fifth Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretary-General concerning vacancies in the membership of the Investments Committee that would occur as a result of the expiration of the term of office of three of its members on 31 December 2004 (A/59/103);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General in which, in accordance with the provisions of article 20 of the Regulations of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund, the Secretary-General, after consultation with the Standing Committee of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, submitted for confirmation by the General Assembly the reappointment of three persons as members of the Investments Committee for a three-year term of office beginning on 1 January 2005 (A/C.5/59/7).

3. At the same meeting, the Fifth Committee decided, by acclamation, to recommend to the General Assembly that it confirm the appointment of William J. McDonough (United States of America), Hélène Ploix (France) and Jürgen Reimnitz (Germany) as members of the Investments Committee for a three-year term of office beginning on 1 January 2005 (see para. 5).

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4. Also at the same meeting, the Committee was informed, in document A/C.5/59/7, of the resignation of Ahmed Abdullatif (Saudi Arabia), effective December 2004, and, in accordance with the recommendation contained in paragraph 4 thereof, the Committee confirmed the transformation of the appointment of Khaya Ngqula (South Africa) from that of an ad hoc member to that of a regular member in order to fill the remainder of Mr. Abdullatif's term, which is due to expire on 31 December 2006 (see para. 6).

Recommendations of the Fifth Committee

5. The Fifth Committee recommends that the General Assembly confirm the appointment by the Secretary-General of the following persons as members of the Investments Committee for a three-year term of office beginning on 1 January 2005:

Mr. William J. McDonough (United States of America)

Ms. Hélène Ploix (France)

Mr. Jürgen Reimnitz (Germany)

6. The Fifth Committee also recommends that the General Assembly confirm the appointment by the Secretary-General of Mr. Khaya Ngqula (South Africa) as a member of the Investments Committee for a term of office beginning in December 2004 and expiring on 31 December 2006.

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Agenda item 17 (d)

Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments: appointment of members of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mrs. Denisa **Hutanová** (Slovakia)

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 17 September 2004, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled "Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments: appointment of members of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal".

2. At its 21st meeting, on 5 November, the Fifth Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretary-General concerning the vacancies in the membership of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal that would occur as a result of the expiration of the term of office of three of its members on 31 December 2004 (A/59/104);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General containing the names of four persons nominated by their respective Governments for appointment or reappointment to the United Nations Administrative Tribunal for a four-year term of office beginning on 1 January 2005 (A/C.5/59/8).

3. At the same meeting, the Committee proceeded to select, by secret ballot, three persons from the four candidates for the United Nations Administrative Tribunal. The result of the voting was as follows:

Number of ballots cast:	185
Invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	185
Abstentions:	1
Number of members voting:	184
Required majority:	93

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Number of votes obtained

Goh Joon Seng (Singapore)	155
Spyridon Flogaitis (Greece)	151
Brigitte Stern (France)	122
Juliet Semambo Kalema (Uganda)	110

4. Having obtained the required majority, Goh Joon Seng (Singapore), Spyridon Flogaitis (Greece) and Brigitte Stern (France) were recommended for appointment or reappointment as members of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal for a four-year term of office beginning on 1 January 2005 (see para. 5).

Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

5. The Fifth Committee recommends that the General Assembly appoint the following persons as members of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal for a four-year term of office beginning on 1 January 2005:

Mr. Goh Joon Seng (Singapore)
Mr. Spyridon Flogaitis (Greece)
Ms. Brigitte Stern (France)